

COLLABORATIVE FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

2014 Project Proposal Evaluation Comments,
Recommendations, Scores, and Public Comment

Prepared for the Secretary of Agriculture
Submitted Through the USDA Forest Service

June 4, 2014



Bryan Bird, Chair

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Date

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Application Review Process	2
2014 Grant Applications: Panel Review Comments and Scores	5
Recommendations for Improving the Panel Evaluation Process and RFA	49
Glossary	50
APPENDIX A: 2014 Proposal Scores	51
APPENDIX B: Summaries of Recommended Projects.....	53
APPENDIX C: Sub-Committee Review of Multi-Party Assessment Reports	59
APPENDIX D: CFRP Technical Advisory Panel Charter and Bylaws.....	67
APPENDIX E: CFRP Technical Advisory Panel Members.....	76
APPENDIX F: 2014 Panel Meeting Agenda.....	77
APPENDIX G: Public Comment.....	84

Executive Summary

The Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Technical Advisory Panel (Panel) met in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 7-11, 2014, to provide the USDA Forest Service with recommendations for the Secretary of Agriculture on which grant applications submitted for funding under the 2014 CFRP Request for Applications (RFA) best met the program objectives. The Secretary of Agriculture chartered the Panel for two years as a Federal Advisory Committee on March 24, 2014 pursuant to the Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 (Title VI, Pub. L. No. 106-393). The meeting was open to the public. Eight Panel members attended the meeting. Panel members' Alan Hatch, Ching-Hsun Huang, Nina Wells, Jeremy Kruger and Kenneth Jaramillo were unable to attend.

Prior to the Panel meeting, members completed online ethics training on the roles and responsibilities of USDA Advisory Committee representatives. At the meeting, the Panel reviewed their Bylaws and responsibilities under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and reviewed 26 grant applications totaling \$8,710,425 in federal requests. The Panel also reviewed the report from the Sub-Committee on the review of the multi-party assessment reports from completed CFRP projects. Panel members considered information presented during the public comment periods and then conducted a consistency review of their comments on each application. The Panel also provided recommendations for improving the Panel review process and the Request for Applications (RFA).

If a Panel Member or any member of their immediate family, or organization employing them, would directly or indirectly financially benefit from a CFRP grant proposal being evaluated, or if a Panel Member had an identified role in the implementation of the project, that Panel member left the meeting room during the discussion of that proposal and recused themselves from the Panel's decision to avoid a conflict of interest.

On April 11 the Panel recommended 9 CFRP projects for funding in 2014 totaling \$2,945,000 (the funding available for CFRP grants in fiscal year 2014) as well additional projects should additional funding become available. On May 2 the Southwestern Regional Forester concurred with the Panel recommendations and sent a transmittal letter to the Chief of the Forest Service with the Panel recommendations and a decision memo for the Secretary of Agriculture. Grant award letters will be issued by the appropriate administering National Forest following approval by the Secretary.

This report includes: An overview of the application review process; Panel review comments and scores on the 2014 CFRP applications; the Sub-Committee report; Recommendations for improving the proposal review process and RFA; the Panel Charter and Bylaws, A list of Panel members; 2014 Panel meeting agenda, Public comments and Project funding recommendations for the Secretary. This report, the Panel Charter, the Federal Register Announcement for the Panel meeting and the 2014 RFA can be obtained on the CFRP website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp>) or by contacting Walter Dunn, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, telephone (505) 842-3425.

Application Review Process

The Forest Service sorted applications into three categories prior to the Panel meeting: 1) Implementation of on the ground restoration treatments; 2) Planning, assessment and NEPA compliance; and 3) Small diameter tree utilization. The Panel reviewed administrative observations provided by Forest Service staff and then used a consensus based process to develop agreement on a description of how well the application met the evaluation criterion. Each Panel member then filled out a score sheet indicating how well the application addressed each of the evaluation criteria (0=not at all, 5=exceptionally well).

The Panel eliminated 3 of the 26 applications from consideration because they did not meet the requirements of the 2014 RFA. Public comment periods were scheduled each day, and members of the public could bring application review matters to the attention of the Panel during those periods if they provided written comments to the Forest Service staff in advance. Public comment received prior to the Panel meeting was sent via email to all Panel members. Hardcopies of the public comment received prior to the meeting was provided to all Panel members on Monday, April 7, 2014. Public comments received during the meeting were announced during the next scheduled public comment on the agenda and hard copies were provided to all Panel members. Public comments are included in Appendix G. After the applications were reviewed, the Panel conducted a consistency check of their comments on each application, considering the information presented during public comment periods and making corrections to the Panel report language when necessary.

Following the consistency check Panel members developed a process for scoring each proposal's effect on long-term management and assigned a weight of 1.75 to those criteria. The Panel identified the following elements to consider in developing their score for a project's effect on long-term management:

- Best return on the investment to accomplish CFRP purposes and objectives.
- Innovation that makes appropriate forest management more cost efficient.
- Contribution to accomplishing larger landscape scale objectives.
- Part of a landscape scale effort within an area that leads to land and watershed protection.
- The ability to act as a catalyst to increase the effectiveness of projects beyond the one being proposed.
- Facilitates protection of communities from wildfire.
- Allows more flexibility in wildland fire management.
- Ability to create assets that are capable of generating net benefit streams past this project.
- Increases community awareness and acceptance of fire's role in the landscape.
- Creating and maintaining utilization infrastructure.
- Self-sustaining businesses.
- The extent to which the proposal builds on (innovation and experimentation) previous CFRP projects as opposed to repeating previous CFRP accomplishments.
- Maintaining local sustainable forest industries that provide land managers with a source (of workers) for removing excessive fuels and establishing healthy forests.

- Collaboration between using small diameter timber and a market based approach.
- Commitment to follow up first entry with second entry to avoid losing fire benefits gained.
- Most bang for the buck while protecting life and limb, creating jobs, utilizing materials and creating better managed forest.
- Dedication to culture of safety for forest workers, fire managers, youth and employees.
- Monitoring contributes significantly to current knowledge, either forest restoration or forest industry.

Forest Service staff calculated the average score for each application and created a table listing the applications from highest to lowest score in each of the three project categories (planning, utilization, and implementation). The Panel recommended funding two planning, two utilization, and five implementation projects totaling \$2,945,000. The Panel recommended funding the next highest scoring implementation projects should additional funding become available.

Evaluation Criteria

The panel review comments for each application include numbered paragraphs which correspond to the numbers for each of the following criteria:

1. Will the proposed project reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfires and the negative effects of excessive competition between trees by restoring ecosystem functions (including healthy watersheds), structures, and species composition, including the reduction of non-native species populations?
2. Will the proposed project re-establish fire regimes approximating those that shaped forest ecosystems prior to fire suppression?
3. Will the proposed project replant trees in deforested areas, if they exist, in the proposed project area?
4. Will the proposed project improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees?
5. Will the proposed project include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders as well as appropriate Federal, Tribal, State, County, Land Grant, and Municipal government representatives in the design and implementation of the project? (Conservation Groups are non-government, non-commodity groups whose objectives include forest restoration, biodiversity and/or habitat conservation, education and/or outreach.)
6. Does the proposal include a plan for a multiparty assessment that will:
 - (a) Identify both the existing ecological condition of the proposed project area and the desired future condition; and
 - (b) Monitor and report on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of the project including improvements in local management skills and on the ground results?
7. Does the project proposal incorporate current scientific forest restoration information?
8. Will the proposed project preserve old and large trees?
9. Will the proposed project create local employment or training opportunities within the context of accomplishing restoration objectives and include summer youth job programs, such as the Youth Conservation Corps, where appropriate?
10. Have the proponents demonstrated the capability to successfully implement the proposed project?
11. Does the proposal facilitate landscape-scale, multi-jurisdictional efforts?

12. Is the proposed activity in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction?
13. Is the cost of the project reasonable and within the range of the fair market value for similar work?

2014 CFRP Grant Application Panel Review Comments

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 01-14
CATEGORY:	Planning
ORGANIZATION:	Cimarron Watershed Alliance
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Planning: Collaborative Restoration of Frequent Fire Ecosystems in the Ponil Creek Watershed
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 260,425
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 65,103
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 325,529
EVALUATION SCORE:	45.63

Administrative Notes:

Piper bookkeeping is listed as a project partner on page 14 in the Partner Table and on page 5 of the budget. A resume is included among the key personnel for Judy Piper, but there is no letter of support verifying her role in the project. The applicant clarified to the Panel that Ms. Piper is a previous member of the Board and current member of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance (CWA), which is the applicant.

See Appendix G for public comment related to this application.

1. Strength of this proposal is that it seeks to identify both thinning and prescribed burning opportunities thus including multiple tools for fuel reduction and forest restoration. The intent is to analyze the need for fuels treatment given the change in landscape due to the Ponil fire.
2. The Forest Service Ranger District has reintroduced fire nearby and regularly implements prescribed burns, demonstrating a willingness to reestablish natural fire regimes.
3. The executive summary mentions planting.
4. A letter was included with a commitment to utilize material from Silver Dollar Racings and Shavings, however further effort could have been made to contact and seek collaboration with other value-added producers in the area.
5. The proposal lists a diversity of collaborators including grazing, livestock and wildlife interests, but there is no commitment from NM Game and Fish to implement the project once the NEPA is complete. The applicant contacted and received support from downstream and neighboring landowners which may be affected by the proposed

activities. The Forest Service Ranger District letter of endorsement commits significant technical assistance and staff to support the project.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical or ground disturbing treatments to exclude the nesting season for birds from April to July.

6. Recommendation: Consider the establishment of permanent plots during planning activities which would facilitate long-term monitoring.

7. The proposal would have been stronger by incorporating current scientific forest restoration information and site-specific information. It is not clear in the Statement of Need how recent fires have affected fuel loads and fire hazard in the planning area, although it is acknowledged that pretreatment data has yet to be collected.

Recommendation: If treatment is proposed for piñon-juniper, the proposal should discuss the application of stand type concepts outlined in Romme and others (2009).

8. There is no reference to the preservation of large, old trees.

9. A letter from the school district would have strengthened the proposal.

10. The Forest Service District Ranger's letter describes a long and successful relationship with CWA and CFRP. The partners collectively have extensive experience.

11. The project is multijurisdictional and includes the state wildlife refuge, but it is not clear if there are opportunities to leverage funds from partners that are willing to participate in this planning effort.

12. The support letter from the Forest Service Ranger District indicated that the project was a high priority.

13. The size of the proposed planning area is a strength; this is evident in the reasonable cost for the project.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 02-14
CATEGORY:	Planning
ORGANIZATION:	Rocky Mountain Ecology LLC
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Planning: Landscape-Level Forest Restoration Planning in the White Peak Area, Colfax County, New Mexico
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 268,602
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 71,650
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 358,252
EVALUATION SCORE:	49.44

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1. The project would be located on state land and would leverage work in adjacent federal areas. The area has been identified as a priority area in a CWPP.
 2. The proposal is strengthened by a written commitment from the land manager to use prescribed fire in the area where applicable (see letter of endorsement from Jim Norwick).
 3. No comment.
 4. The applicant contacted value-added producers in the area, but there is no significant commitment to utilize material from future implementation projects.
 5. The proposal includes a diverse and balanced group of collaborators. The neighbors support the project and would be involved in monitoring. The State Land Office (SLO) commits to implementing the project.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical or ground disturbing treatments to exclude the nesting season for birds from April to July.

6. The proposal is strengthened by using Common Stand Exam (CSE) plots, monitoring indicators associated with CSE plots, and socio-economic indicators.

Recommendation: Consider the establishment of permanent plots during planning activities which would facilitate long-term monitoring.

7. The proposal includes references to the current science, in particular the New Mexico Forest Restoration Principles, and discusses specific restoration targets for trees per acre and canopy cover.

Recommendation: If treatment is proposed for piñon-juniper, the proposal should discuss the application of stand type concepts outlined in Romme and others (2009).

8. On page 6 the applicant commits to preserving old and large trees.
9. Philmont Scout Ranch plans to collaborate with Rocky Mountain Ecology to provide two full day ecological training sessions for local youth. Rocky Mountain Ecology would create 5 professional jobs to complete the NEPA surveys.
10. Sean Knox's resume demonstrates extensive experience in NEPA planning. Paragraph 2 of the letter of endorsement indicates that the diverse partners in this proposal have a history of working collaboratively to meet restoration objectives. The SLO has an extensive and successful record of implementation of CFRP projects in the area.

11. The project would include work in the White Peak Landscape that would complement work on adjacent private lands (Philmont Scout Ranch) in collaboration with the State Land Office. The State Land Office commits to implementation.

12. The NM Statewide Assessment indicates the area is a priority for restoration.

13. This project would complete the NEPA analysis on 5,000 acres, which is a small area for a NEPA project of this cost. However, the project includes cultural resources, biological and MSO/goshawk surveys that are not included in other CFRP planning projects.

14. The applicant states that they will pursue other funding sources to implement the project after planning is complete (see list on page 6).

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 03-14
CATEGORY:	Planning
ORGANIZATION:	Racher Resource Management LLC
FOREST:	Cibola
PROJECT TITLE:	Wildfire and Water Source Protection in New Mexico
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 239,968
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 59,992
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 299,960
EVALUATION SCORE:	51.84

1. This project would facilitate future expansion and implementation of forest health and watershed restoration through collaborations with local and national entities.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by more clearly describing the gap the project attempts to address, as well as intermediate stages that measure progress (accomplishments), and the final vision.

2. The proposal has the appropriate collaborators and partners and strategic capacity to reestablish natural fire regimes across a majority of New Mexico's fire prone forest (cattle growers, water utilities, federal agencies, etc.).

3. No comment.

4. By developing broad-based, socio-political infrastructure to support forest restoration, the project, if successful, would greatly strengthen the capacity of all sectors involved in forest restoration in New Mexico. Total utilization of small diameter timber is specifically addressed in this proposal. Assisting industry growth to achieve this is a specific objective of the proposal.

5. The proposal includes a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders and aims to positively effect forest restoration statewide. The inclusion of forest product commodity providers is a strength of the proposal.

6. The adaptive management framework described in the monitoring plan is a strength, but the metrics of success in accomplishing the project objectives are difficult to identify.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including specific interim benchmarks to measure success in the integration of supply, industry and utilization across multiple landscapes at a landscape-scale. These benchmarks should be included in the multiparty monitoring plan.

7. The proposal could have been strengthened by referencing the scientific literature and background.

8. The proposal references the New Mexico Forest Restoration Principles and states the project would preserve old and large trees.

9. The proposal discusses 1,200 new jobs, but does not identify where the number 1,200 comes from, and does not tie the new jobs as attributable to the federal funds requested for this project. During the meeting the proponents clarified how the 1,200 jobs were calculated. The commitment of CNM to provide the specialized training necessary to support potential industry jobs created is a strength.

10. Based on their experience the proponents clearly have the capability to successfully implement large-scale natural resource projects, though this project is different from those implemented in the past.

11. The proposal is specifically designed to facilitate landscape scale multijurisdictional efforts in forest restoration planning and indeed is only focused on large-scale planning concepts.

12. The collaborators have the capacity and the experience to further prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction and restoration across large landscapes which could make use of limited funds more efficient. The proposal identifies the area of fire-adapted forest and further refines that area to a portion that would be strategically selected for treatment (see page 3).

13. Because of the unique and innovative nature of this proposal, the cost valuations are difficult to evaluate and deliverables are not clearly specified. However, the proposed activities could lead to significant investment in the future from both private and public entities.

14. The participation of The Nature Conservancy and other partners is significant. Their reputation and the potential for private funding will help incentivize future collaboration

statewide. The project's potential to coordinate/leverage funds, develop a labor force to implement projects, and bolster industry increases its positive effect on long-term management.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 04-14
CATEGORY:	Planning
ORGANIZATION:	City of Alamogordo
FOREST:	Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE:	Westside Sacramento Mountains Watershed Restoration and Fuels Reduction Plan
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 356,504
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 89,125
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 445,629
EVALUATION SCORE:	50.56

1. The proponent seeks to address forest restoration across jurisdictions to enable treatments that would reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfire to the watershed and infrastructure of the City of Alamogordo.

2. The proposal considers both mechanical treatment and prescribed fire as tools for reestablishing natural fire regimes in the planning area. The fact that there are no active grazing allotments in the planning area increases the likelihood that the project objectives will be accomplished from a logistical perspective.

3. No comment.

4. The proposal narrative clearly describes the intent and importance of including partners who would utilize small diameter timber where possible. Supporting letters from industry would have been helpful.

5. The Forest Service Ranger District letter of endorsement commits significant technical assistance and staff to support the project.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing activities during the nesting season of birds (April through July).

6. The proposal incorporates appropriate indicators to measure project objectives.

Recommendation: Consider installing permanent monitoring plots in the project area.

7. The proposal incorporates scientific forest restoration information about Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer, but neglects to provide analysis and information on piñon-juniper woodlands, which make up most of the forest type in the area.

Recommendation: If treatment is proposed for piñon-juniper, the project should discuss the application of stand type concepts outlined in Romme and others (2009).

8. The proposal mentions that the project would develop prescriptions that preserve old and large trees.

9. The proposal includes training opportunities and active participation by youth in both environmental analysis as well as stand exams.

10. No comment.

11. The proposal lists multiple land management organizations as partners including the City of Alamogordo, the Forest Service, and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. The project would provide significant opportunities to leveraging other funding sources to ensure landscape-scale application. The proposal links to other areas where NEPA is completed so the project would contribute to landscape-scale forest restoration efforts.

12. The proposed activity is in a priority area for hazardous fuels reduction. The proposal describes the value of the utility infrastructure and highlights the fact that the planning area contributes up to 1.5 billion gallons of water to the city.

13. The two-stage NEPA planning process described in the proposal would be an efficient and novel way to accomplish restoration objectives.

14. This project would help protect critical infrastructure. Planning for its protection demonstrates wise foresight on part of land managers.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 05-14
CATEGORY:	Planning
ORGANIZATION:	Sustainable Ecosystems LLC
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Forest Restoration Planning in American Park
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	45.91

1. This proposed project would reduce the risk of high severity fire in the project area.
2. The proposal demonstrates a strong commitment from the state, federal and private landowners to allow prescribed fire in the planning area.
3. No comment.
4. The applicant made contact with value-added producers in the area; however there is no significant commitment to utilize material that may come from future implementation projects.
5. The proposal includes a broad range of collaborators including grazing permittees. Although not required in the RFA, the proposal could have been stronger by including a conservation group.
Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing activities during the nesting season of birds (April through July).
6. The monitoring plan includes clear indicators of success for the socio-economic objectives of the project and the completion of the NEPA surveys and documentation. Ecological pretreatment data will be collected, which offers the opportunity to install permanent monitoring plots in the project area.
7. The proposal references stand exams and the communities at risk are described in the Sandoval County CWPP. The narrative would have been strengthened by including a discussion of the current scientific forest restoration information that was included in the Appendix.

Recommendation: If treatment is proposed for piñon-juniper, the project should discuss the application of stand type concepts outlined in Romme and others (2009).
8. The proposal objectives are to focus on removal of small diameter material.

9. This application has a strong educational component including letters of commitment from the Girl Scouts of America and local REI stores who commit to providing educational outreach for this project and other forest restoration activities.

10. The applicant has extensive experience developing NEPA documents.

11. This NEPA documentation proposed would complement many already implemented projects and investments on both private and federal lands, particularly work in important riparian areas.

12. The Forest Service Cuba Ranger District has identified the project area as a high priority for forest restoration and fuels reduction. The proposal also demonstrates the planning area is a high priority because it is adjacent to headwaters for 15 perennial streams and is an area with high recreational value.

13. The proposal will prepare NEPA documents for a large area of forest land (20,000 acres) at a reasonable cost.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 06-14
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Old Wood
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Utilization Application: Old Wood LLC High Volume Production in Flooring from Small Diameter Timber
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	54.54

Administrative Notes:

Shiloh Old recused himself from participating in the review of this proposal. Prior to its review on April 8, 2014, Shiloh Old left the room at 11:12 am. He returned at 11:58 am after the Panel completed scoring. He also recused himself during the consistency review of this proposal on April 10, 2014 from 1:58 pm to 2:15 pm.

1. This proposal is strengthened by including projections on how this utilization project would translate into acres treated.

2. The proponent has a history of sourcing material from projects that achieve the CFRP restoration objectives.

4. The proposal is requesting funding to purchase equipment to meet an expanding market for high value products obtained from small diameter trees. The proponent has demonstrated the capacity to produce a highly value-added product that is beyond the traditional products produced in the State. The product is unique in the markets of NM and offers the potential to expand treatment capacity in the State. Making a product from non-native invasive tree species is unique among CFRP projects and strengthens the proposal.
5. The proposal includes a balanced group of stakeholders and indicates who will provide material and who the finished product will go to after it is produced.
6. The monitoring indicators are directly related to the equipment purchase and other project objectives (the wood coop and the chain of custody for certified product).
7. The proponent has a history of sourcing material from projects that use current scientific forest restoration information.
8. The proposal includes the preservation of old, large, and ‘noble’ trees. The proponent has a history of sourcing material from projects that preserve old and large trees.
9. The proponent currently maintains 21 employees that can be attributed to past CFRP funding. The project would create 9 additional jobs and include high tech training via programs such as the Manufacturing Extension Program and CNC training in collaboration with Luna Community College in Las Vegas. This professional training may create long-term employment and new jobs in the future.
10. The proponent’s track record of producing and marketing a unique product from small diameter materials indicates there is a high probability the proposed project would be implemented successfully.
11. The project would facilitate landscape scale, multi-jurisdictional projects by expanding the market for products from small diameter timber.
12. The proponent has a history of sourcing material from projects that are in high priority areas for hazardous fuel reduction.
13. The budget includes program income. The equipment prices seem reasonable and some of the funding would be for purchasing used equipment. The round trip air fare for travel seems high. The proposal exhibits a well-developed business and marketing plan.
14. This project displays innovative techniques for using exotic species on a larger scale and represents an ambitious vision of the potential for New Mexico wood products.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 07-14
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Roger Tucker Inc.
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Utilization: Expanded Capacity and Utilization of Small Diameter Trees
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	48.56

1. The material for the project would come from the South West Jemez Mountains CFLRP planning area, which would leverage existing collaborative groups and resources to accomplish CFRP and project objectives on a large landscape. The proposal quantifies the impact to the landscape of doubling the number of loads of trees and chips. The applicant also provided an acre equivalent which strengthens the proposal.

2. Obtaining the material for the project from the South West Jemez mountains CFLRP planning area would leverage existing collaborative groups and resources to accomplish the CFRP and project objectives.

3. No comment.

4. Although transportation equipment does not necessarily add value to small diameter timber it is necessary for the industry to thrive. This project would address a significant transportation problem for local industry. However, the benefit would be limited to the local area due to the high cost of traveling with an empty truck (dead head cost). The proposal includes letters of commitment from several companies that will purchase products made from small diameter trees including organic chips, bedding, soil products, seeding and erosion control. Those products would be an expansion of the traditional product mix.

Recommendation: Reference to a completed business plan would strengthen the proposal.

5. The proposal lists a diverse set of stakeholders including the Santa Fe National Forest. The project would include joint learning opportunities on industry limitations and barriers.

6. The monitoring plan indicators are feasible and well suited to the project objectives.

7. The proponent has a history of sourcing material from projects that use current scientific forest restoration information.

8. The proposal specifically mentions that it will preserve old and large trees to maintain and preserve wildlife habitat (see page 5).

9. The project would create 3 jobs and potentially create additional temporary employment for forest workers to transport and stack the material for Tribal Elders. The project would also involve the Boy Scouts (Troop 210 and others) in outreach education.

10. The proponent has 40 years of experience in the industry and a track record of producing and marketing a product from small diameter materials. That history indicates there is a very high probability the proposed project would be implemented successfully.

11. Obtaining the material for the project from the South West Jemez mountains CFLRP planning area would leverage existing collaborative groups and resources to accomplish the CFRP and project objectives.

12. Obtaining the material for the project from the South West Jemez mountains CFLRP planning area would leverage existing collaborative groups and resources to accomplish the CFRP and project objectives.

13. No comment.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 08-14
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Conley's Lumber Mill LLC
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Complimenting Firewood Communities
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	Not scored.

Administrative Notes:

The application is eliminated from consideration due to a missing letter of commitment from the Espanola Ranger District. The Espanola Ranger District is listed as a partner in table 5 on page 2 with roles identified as a small diameter supplier and a partner in multiparty monitoring. The USFS is also identified as a member of the project's multiparty monitoring team in Table 6 on page 7 and in the last paragraph on page 8. The CFRP Request for Applications states on page 10 that applications which do not include letters of commitment from all project partners with specific roles in project implementation will be eliminated.

1. No comment.
2. No comment.
3. No comment.
4. This equipment would allow the applicant to diversify his already well developed market.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including more detail on the present and proposed future capacity and income from the firewood operation.

5. The proposal includes broad collaboration, including a strong letter of support from Santa Clara Pueblo.
6. The indicators of the monitoring plan seem feasible and are well suited to the project objectives.
7. No comment.
9. Project would create 7 jobs distributing firewood to tribal and land grant communities.
10. The proponent has 50 years of experience in the industry and a track record of producing and marketing a product from small diameter materials. That history indicates there is a very high probability that the proposed project would be implemented successfully.
11. The project would build a network to assess firewood needs across the Pueblo. The proposal explained how the proposed equipment purchases would lower the cost of fuelwood.
12. No comment.
13. Some of the equipment requested in this proposal has been used successfully by other CFRP grantees in the past.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened if it included an estimate of the program income and evidence of a business plan for the operation.

Recommendation: The applicant is encouraged to resubmit next year with required documentation.

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 09-14
CATEGORY: Utilization

ORGANIZATION:	Spotted Owl Timber Inc.
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Creating a Sustainable Market for the Utilization of Small Diameter Tree by Providing a Renewable Source of Materials and Maintaining Healthier Forests (CPM)
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	43.47

1. The material for the project would come from the South West Jemez mountains CFLRP project which would leverage existing collaborative groups and resources to accomplish CFRP and project objectives.

Recommendation: The proposal would have been strengthened by including a map of the source area for the material.

2. The material for the project would come from the South West Jemez mountains CFLRP planning which would leverage existing collaborative groups and resources to accomplish CFRP and project objectives.

4. The letters of commitment from customers indicate that the equipment purchases requested in this proposal would allow the applicant to improve his small diameter processing capacity and expand the market for this material. The reference to 'green' marketing techniques is somewhat unique to CFRP proposals and is appreciated.

Recommendation: Reference to a completed business plan would strengthen the proposal.

Recommendation: Identify the certifying agency and document the process that agency requires for the types of products that would be certified to support the reference in the proposal.

5. The collaborative group is limited and could be strengthened by including a conservation interest group.

6. The indicators in the monitoring plan seem feasible.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by linking indicators to specific project objectives.

7. The letter from the Forest Service District Ranger indicates that the material for the project would come from the SW Jemez project, which is supported by scientific information.

8. The preservation of old and large trees is not specifically mentioned in the proposal. However, the machinery being requested is intended to create value from small diameter timber. The source of material for this operation would be the Southwest Jemez CFLRP. The treatment prescriptions for that project preserve old and large trees.

9. The project would sustain 4 jobs and add 3 new jobs. The proposal mentions an educational component with the Santa Fe Public Schools, but that component is not well developed. The letter from Santa Fe Public Schools mentions, but does not provide specifics on, the educational or youth development opportunities. The narrative describes training in gardening and landscaping but the letter of support also mentions forest and watershed restoration.

Recommendation: The training component of the project should focus on forest restoration rather than gardening and landscaping. The applicant may want to explore additional curriculum and classes within the District that relate to forest restoration.

10. The proponent's experience and customer base indicate that they have proven their ability to implement the project.

11. The material for the project would come from the South West Jemez mountains CFLRP planning which would leverage existing collaborative groups and resources to accomplish CFRP and project objectives. The proposal would have been strengthened by including a map of the source area for the material.

12. The material for the project would come from the South West Jemez mountains CFLRP project which would leverage existing collaborative groups and resources to accomplish CFRP and project objectives.

Recommendation: The proposal would have been strengthened by including a map of the source area for the material.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 10-14
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Ellinger Logging
FOREST:	Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE:	Utilization: Adding Small Diameter Processing Capability to the Existing Ellinger Logging Sawmill
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	51.78

1. The proposal introduction highlights the benefits of more cost efficient removal of small diameter material. These benefits are reiterated in the letter from the Forest Service Sacramento District Ranger. By providing local mill facilities, the project would enhance the ability of the Lincoln National Forest to effectively complete restoration and/or stewardship contracts.
2. Expansion of local milling operations would enable greater use of fire on the landscape and increase the potential for forest restoration.
3. No comment.
4. The equipment requested in this application is common and normal for the industry and will allow the operator to increase his production of value-added products from small diameter timber. The basic, well thought out floor plan for this machinery indicates how the proponent plans to gang the equipment to maximum efficiency and product flow.
5. The proposal is strengthened by the existing relationships between the proponent and the project partners on both the supply and market side. However, the partners could have been more diverse by including a conservation representative.
6. The monitoring plan indicators are specific to the project objectives, but the plan lacks a specific measure for the proposed four-fold increase in productivity and efficiency described in the executive summary.
7. The proposal narrative includes a strong discussion of the current forest scientific restoration information as well as an appendix with scientific references.
8. The proposal will preserve old and large trees as stated in the narrative, and the machinery proposed for purchase is intended for, and in some cases limited to, the processing of small diameter trees.
9. Cloudcroft High School has developed a three year basic forestry safety, forest economics and environmental impact program to engage students' interests. The proponent indicated that he would offer Cloudcroft High School Forestry Program students first preference for hiring.

The Forest Service District Ranger letter of endorsement states that the proponent is committed to promoting the local economy by processing materials within New Mexico instead of moving material out of state prior to processing. Providing local mill facilities would enhance the Lincoln National Forest's ability to effectively complete restoration and/or stewardship contracts.

10. The Forest Service District Ranger's letter of endorsement indicates that the proponent has a track record of successfully implementing projects that utilize material from the Lincoln National Forest. The proponent built his business and has remained in

operation without CFRP support, which demonstrates his capabilities. The applicant's existing contracts with the Forest Service is a strength. The proposal is strengthened by reference to a 2012 business plan.

11. The applicant demonstrated his ability to address landscape scale, multijurisdictional projects by including the Mescalero Apache Tribe as a stakeholder.

12. The Lincoln National Forest is restricted in their ability to treat high priority areas because few mills are operating in the area and there are limited outlets for small diameter material.

13. The budget for the equipment requested is reasonable. New equipment is being purchased wherever possible to maximize usable life, which will improve the project's return on investment.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 11-14 Rev.
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Restoration Technologies
FOREST:	Gila
PROJECT TITLE:	Commercialization of Zerosion, an engineered composite biomass erosion control material, using low value biomass generated from forest treatment in Grant County, New Mexico
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 359,416
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,175
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 449,591
EVALUATION SCORE:	42.13

Administrative Notes:

See Appendix G for public comment related to this application.

1. The project would create an innovative product from low value material that could increase the ability of land management agencies to accomplish forest restoration and fuel reduction. If used selectively the product could enable erosion control that would enhance watershed health.

2. The product could potentially increase the ability of agencies to reduce fuel loads, which may facilitate ecologically appropriate prescribed burns by removing excessive fuels that could damage soils and other resources.

3. No comment.

4. This project would not substantially increase the capacity of the industry in the short term. The proposal does not make the case for how this product would utilize a significant amount of small diameter material. A significant amount of material could only be utilized if the product were produced at a large scale.
5. The proposal lists a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders and includes conservation interests. Gila Wood Products is the only source of raw material mentioned in the proposal. Additional sources of material would be helpful for sustainability. Strong letters of support from Zerosion proponents and potential customers are included in the proposal, but none of them commit to purchase Zerosion at this time because of its experimental nature.
6. The proposal is strengthened by the experimental design comparing Zerosion applications to existing methods. This is a necessary step to get to broader applications.
7. The proposal references demonstration projects which have provided “proof of principle” for the product. The proposal includes a strong justification for the use of the product but does not discuss how the demand created would affect forest restoration.
8. The application commits to preserving old and large trees.
9. The proposal includes a four year commitment from the Aldo Leopold Charter School which includes establishing pre and post treatment transects.
10. The applicant has successfully managed and implemented forest restoration and utilization projects in the past, but it is not clear that he has the ability to successfully commercialize the Zerosion product at a large scale.
11. The proponent supports exporting this technology to other regions and in rural communities to promote economic growth. The Zerosion product would facilitate cross jurisdictional fuel reduction and forest restoration projects by providing an outlet for low value wood products.
12. No comment.
13. The large scale application of Zerosion may be cost prohibitive given lessons learned from the Schultz Flood area recovery efforts. More targeted applications may be appropriate for the use of Zerosion. Scaling up and commercialization this product may not be possible using the outdated technology described in the proposal.
14. With appropriate financing, technology and planning the applicant could develop Zerosion into a viable, profitable, value-added product that could utilize large quantities of small diameter timber. The long-term environmental benefits of this product indicate that the potential for commercial production of Zerosion is significant, and that demand for this erosion control technology could expand.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 12-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Gila Tree Thinners
FOREST:	Gila
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation Burro Mountain W.U.I. Mixed-Treatment Watershed Restoration
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 305,520
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 76,869
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 382,389
EVALUATION SCORE:	49.47

1. Given the clarification by the proponent that the area is primarily an overgrown savanna, the dramatic reduction in trees would reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and promote healthy functioning of the grassland savanna ecosystem.
2. The proposal discusses the reintroduction of fire into the area. While the letter from the Forest Service District Ranger does not commit to the reintroduction of fire in the area, prescribed fire is included in the NEPA Decision Memo.
3. The applicant states that it is not necessary to replant trees in the project area.
4. Although the project area is primarily piñon-juniper, a historically difficult material to create a value-added product from, the proponent has a letter of commitment from Alamo Navajo School Board to purchase 600 cords of piñon for Alamo's well-established firewood market.
5. The proposal lists a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders that includes conservation interests. The proposal indicates that forest workers will take NMFIA forest worker safety training.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing activities during the nesting season for birds (April to July).

Recommendation: Collaboration with the U-Bar should result in post-treatment/fire rest for at least one full growing season.

6. The monitoring plan indicators are specific to the project objectives.
7. The application does not reference the current science regarding the restoration of piñon-juniper woodlands or savannas.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including a discussion of the current science on piñon-juniper woodlands and their restoration.

8. The proposal indicates on page 7 that old and large trees will be protected.
9. The project would add 6 new employees and provide them with safety training. Seven students from the Aldo Leopold Charter School would conduct monitoring and obtain experience on equipment if they meet the age requirement.
10. The successful track record demonstrated in the final reports from previous CFRP grants and the table on page 4 indicate that the applicant has the capability to successfully implement the proposed project.
11. This proposal is a follow on to a previous CFRP project and is part of a larger multijurisdictional effort to protect the Burro Mountain Homestead.
12. The Grant County CWPP and the Forest Service District Ranger's letter indicate that the proposed project would be in a high priority area for hazardous fuel reduction.
13. The budget is within the range of costs of other CFRP proposals.
14. The proposal leverages past CFRP projects by partnering with Alamo Navajo to produce firewood using previously purchased CFRP equipment.

Public Comment period April 8, 2014, 5:55pm

Joe Gurule provided public comment on application number 17-14.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 13-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Chimayo Conservation Corps
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Provide Career Opportunities for Local Young Veterans by Restoring the Structure and Function of Three Diverse Landscapes
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	Not scored

Administrative Notes:

The Appendices in the application exceed 50 pages (64 pages). This proposal was eliminated from consideration because it exceeded the page limit requirement in the RFA.

See Appendix G for public comment related to this application.

1. No comment.
2. Although fire is mentioned in the narrative, neither the State Land Office nor the Forest Service commit to a reintroduction of fire. However, all three decision notices commit to the reintroduction of fire and the Carson National Forest Decision Memo analyzed a maintenance burn.
3. No comment.
4. The proposal states that firewood would be available for collection by the community, but it appears that no attempt was made to contact local businesses or industry users.
5. The diverse and balanced group of stakeholders includes conservation interests.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing activities during the nesting season for birds (April to July). The Buckman project specifically addresses this issue.

Recommendation: Grazing permittees should be engaged as collaborators and should commit to resting the allotments after treatment.

6. The socio-economic monitoring indicators seem appropriate for the project objectives, including the veteran job monitoring, which is unique among CFRP applications. Understory is included as a desired condition but not reflected in the indicators.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including indicators for understory in the ecological monitoring plan.

7. The proposal includes a well-organized general discussion of current forest restoration science with footnotes. It does not, however, reference current science for restoration of piñon-juniper woodlands or savannas.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including a discussion of the current science on the restoration of piñon-juniper woodlands.

8. The proposal states that the project would not cut trees in excess of 18" DBH.
9. The proposal is unique in that it targets young veterans.
10. The proponent's successful history with CFRP projects demonstrates that they are very capable of implementing the proposed project.
11. This project would work in 3 jurisdictions. It would not, however, be a landscape scale project because the areas described are not adjacent to each other. This criterion is meant to determine if a project would facilitate landscape-scale, multi-jurisdictional efforts. The proposed project has three separate decision documents for projects that are not necessarily related.

12. No comment.

13. No comment.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 15-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Rocky Mountain Ecology LLC
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Multi-Jurisdictional, Landscape-Scale Restoration in the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, Taos County, New Mexico
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	48.93

1. The proposed mechanical treatment would decrease the risk of high intensity fire. The treatment is supported by the Decision Document and current scientific restoration information.

2. The Decision Document identifies the ecotypes as sage brush and piñon-juniper woodland. It reflects current scientific information, supports the proposed treatment and commits the land management agency to prescribed fire and wild land fire use.

3. No comment.

4. Offering firewood to the public at such a low price (\$12/cord) should incentivize its removal on a large scale.

5. A grazing permittee is a collaborator but makes no mention of resting his allotment to allow for recovery of grasses following treatment or fire.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing activities during the nesting season for birds (April to July).

6. The monitoring indicators are clearly linked to project objectives. The monitoring plan will incorporate pre-treatment data collected by the NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute using standardized BLM protocols, which should improve efficiency.

7. The proposal is strengthened by incorporating a Forest ERA landscape assessment that prioritized restoration opportunities. The proposal references current science for restoration of piñon-juniper (PJ) woodlands or savannas, but would be strengthened by a discussion of the current understanding of piñon-juniper woodlands. The proposal states that specific prescriptions would be developed during the multi-party process, allowing for more consideration of the PJ forest types.
8. The proposal discusses the protection of old and large trees.
9. The application proposes to create 14 part time and 2 full time jobs. The proposal includes an education component to train 6 to 8 local youth in resource management, but it does not adequately describe how the youth would be identified and selected.
10. No comment.
11. The proposal includes multiple jurisdictions but does not address restoration on a landscape scale.
12. According to the decision memo, narrative and current scientific information, the proposed activity is in a priority area.
13. The proposal is well matched, with a large amount over and above the required 20%. A significant portion of this non-federal match is a cash contribution from the State Land Office. Per acre treatment costs are low when compared to other CFRP proposals and are very reasonable, especially in PJ. The proposal does not include program income.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 14-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Forest Renewal through Cone Surveys, Seed Collection and Thinning
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 359,119
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 89,999
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 449,118
EVALUATION SCORE:	48.93

Administrative Note

Sara Kuykendall was absent and did not score this proposal.

1. This would be a fuel break/restoration project designed to protect the community of Lama by reducing the risk of catastrophic fire.

2. The project will contribute to restoring fire regimes. The Carson National Forest letter of endorsement commits the forest to prescribed burning. The project would help safe guard wildland urban interface (WUI) communities, which may lead to better acceptance of natural fire in surrounding forest lands.

3. No comment.

4. The proposal would utilize 100% of small diameter timber. Some previously inaccessible areas will be opened to the public for fire wood.

5. Recommendation: The project would be strengthened by collaboration with grazing permittees who should commit to deferment of grazing on treated areas to allow recovery of grasses for two years.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical treatment and ground disturbing activities during the breeding season for birds (Apr-Jul).

6. The proposal includes ecological monitoring based on guidelines for ponderosa pine, but would be strengthened by including focused indicators for PJ. For example, crown base height for desired conditions is 15'-18', which is a standard for Ponderosa pine, but not for piñon-juniper.

Recommendation: Include ecological monitoring indicators for PJ that are tied to the desired condition.

7. The collection of seeds for future reseeding operations is a strength of the proposal. This is explicitly a fuel break treatment and less about forest restoration. However, the proposal would be strengthened including a by a discussion of PJ stand types in the area and their restoration requirements, see Romme and others (2009).

Recommendation: Include a discussion of PJ stand types in the area and their restoration requirements.

8. The proposal is to thin trees up to 10" in diameter which would protect old and large trees.

9. The project would create a maximum of 45 jobs over four years. RMYC will hire and train 7 youth (18-25), including one crew leader. They will provide Firewise Communities training and conduct community attitude surveys which will contribute to the dialogue on WUI issues. The proposal is strengthened by including the history of the RMYC, which has had an 80% success rate in placing corps members in permanent jobs after completing the RMYC program.

10. The proponents have track record of successfully completing CFRP projects which have increased the employability of the project participants.

11. The project area does not facilitate landscape scale, multijurisdictional efforts.

12. The project area falls within the Questa Lama WUI and has been identified to burn with high to extreme severity in the event of a fire.

13. The cost of the project is reasonable and substantially lower on a per acre basis than many other CFRP implementation projects.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 16-14 Rev
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Andy Chacon Forest Restoration
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Agua/Caballos Forest Restoration and Improvement Project
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	48.50

Administrative Notes:

Sarah Kuykendall recused herself from participating the review of this proposal. Prior to its review on April 9, 2014, Sarah Kuykendall left the room at 8:30 am. She returned at 11:15 am after the Panel completed scoring. She also recused himself during the consistency review of this proposal on April 10, 2014 from 4:02 to 4:18 pm. The Panel decided to rescore this proposal during the consistency review.

1. The Forest Service District Ranger support letter, the NEPA decision document, and the proposal provide strong evidence that fire will be reintroduced into the area. The Decision Document indicates that the proposed mechanical treatment would decrease the risk of high intensity fire.
2. The support letter from the Forest Service District Ranger, the NEPA decision document, and the proposal provide strong evidence that fire will be reintroduced in the project area.
3. No comment.
4. The value of material being removed from the project area will be maximized by selling it to a local wood products company that will process it into fire wood and other value-added products.
5. The partner group is broad and diverse and includes grazing permittees and conservation interests. The proposal includes collaboration with conservation groups on wildlife needs, but this should also result in the deferment of mechanical treatment and ground disturbing activities during the breeding season for birds (April-July). Although members of the grazing associations are collaborators and the District Ranger commits to rest and deferment, the support letters from the permittees do not commit to deferring grazing on treated or burned areas to allow for the recovery of grasses.
6. The proposal will utilize the CFRP core ecological indicators.

Recommendation: Consider adding appropriate indicators for each objective. For example, aspen treatments require monitoring of regeneration.

7. The proposal describes site-specific stand conditions, but it could be strengthened by including a better discussion of current scientific forest restoration information and citations for that information. Although the narrative of the proposal has been improved, the use of the terms such as pre-commercial thinning can cause confusion and does not appear to be consistent with a forest restoration objective.

8. The proposal addresses preserving old growth trees. However, the Environmental Assessment for this project is for a timber sale.

9. The proponent plans to create 6 jobs, which would be sustained for a long period and lead to meaningful employment. All employees would receive mandatory Forest Workers Safety training. The students from the Future Farmers of America (FFA) would be trained in ecological monitoring techniques.

10. The proponents have a history of implementing CFRP projects and working with the Forest Service Ranger District to implement thinning projects in the proposed project area.

11. The project would facilitate landscape scale efforts given the many past CFRP projects in the area, but it would not work across more than one jurisdiction.

12. The area selected for treatment is within the Rio Arriba CWPP.

13. The costs are reasonable and within the fair market value for the proposed activities.

14. This project would leverage past CFRP funding by using a firewood processor that was purchased through a previous CFRP grant.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 17-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Joe Gurule & Sons
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Restoration and Educational Opportunities in the Agua/Caballos- Revision
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	Not scored

Administrative Notes:

Appendices exceed 50 pages (58 pages). This proposal was eliminated because it exceeded the page limit requirement. Sara Kuykendall recused herself for this proposal. She left the room on April 9 at 8:30 am and returned at 11:15 am.

See Appendix G for public comment related to this application.

1. The support letter from the Forest Service District Ranger, the NEPA Decision document, and the proposal provide strong evidence that fire will be reintroduced into the planning area.
2. The support letter from the Forest Service District Ranger, the NEPA Decision document, and the proposal provide strong evidence that fire will be reintroduced into the planning area.
4. The project would maximize the value of the material removed from the site by selling it to a local wood products company that will process it into fire wood and other value-added products.
5. The partner group is broad and diverse and includes grazing permittees and conservation interests. The proposal includes collaboration with conservation groups on wildlife needs, which should result in the deferment of mechanical treatment and ground disturbing activities during the breeding season for birds (April-July). However, the workplan on page 7 of the narrative indicates year round operation of mechanical treatment. Although members of the Jarita are collaborators and the Forest Service District Ranger commits to rest and deferment, the support letters from the permittees do not commit to deferring grazing on treated or burned areas to allow for the recovery of grasses. The Jarita Association, which committed to deferring grazing on the project in 2013, no longer does so in the current letter of support.
6. The proposal will utilize the CFRP core ecological indicators.

Recommendation: Consider adding appropriate indicators for each objective. For example, aspen treatments require monitoring of regeneration.

7. The proposal describes sight specific stand conditions, but could be strengthened with a better discussion of current scientific forest restoration information and additional citations for that information. Although the narrative of the proposal has been improved, the use of the terms such as pre-commercial thinning can cause confusion and does not appear to be consistent with a forest restoration objective.
10. The proponents have a history of implementing CFRP projects and of working with the District to implement thinning projects in proposed project area.
11. No comment.

12. No comment.

13. No comment.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 18-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Forest Guild
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Rio de las Trampas Watershed Restoration Phase 1: State Lands
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 357,308
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 89,926
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 447,234
EVALUATION SCORE:	56.17

Administrative Notes:

Although the WildEarth Guardians and Bryan Bird would not directly benefit from this proposal, given his letter of support for this project and the lease on one of the allotments in the project area held by the Wild Earth Guardians, Mr. Bird decided not to score this proposal and to recuse himself from the discussion.

Bryan Bird recused himself from participating in the review of this proposal. Prior to its review on April 9, 2014, Shiloh Old left the room at 11:12 am. He returned at 11:58 am after the Panel completed scoring. He also recused himself during the consistency review of this proposal on April 10, 2014 from 1:58 pm to 2:15 pm.

Sara Kuykendall was absent and did not score this proposal.

1. The proposal makes excellent use of fuel modeling, GIS, and current forest restoration information, which greatly improves the probability of success. In addition to reducing the threat of large high intensity wildfires, the project would promote watershed health and focus on understory restoration.

2. The proposal makes excellent use of fuel modeling, GIS and the current forest restoration information. There is a commitment to prescribed burning in the letter from the District Ranger. The State Land Office also commits to future prescribed burning in the project area.

3. No comment.

4. The proposal lacks adequate consideration of potential value-added products the local forest industry could be produce by utilizing mixed conifer and ponderosa pine materials. However, the NMSLO has a history of utilizing materials from restoration projects to produce value-added products.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including more discussion on the removal and utilization of material from this project, how it would affect the community, and how that benefit would be measured.

5. Although grazing permittees are collaborators, and one does not graze at all, the other does not commit to a deferral of grazing that would assure the recovery of the grassland. The proposal is strengthened by the level of participation from collaborators that would have multiple roles that are confirmed in their letters of commitment.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical treatment and ground disturbing activities during the breeding season for birds (April-July).

6. The proposal would utilize the CFRP core ecological indicators. It also lists socio-economic indicators.

Recommendation: Consider listing appropriate indicators for each objective.

7. The proposal makes excellent use of fuel modeling, GIS and the current forest restoration information. The proposal provides prescriptions by vegetative type using the most current science. The proposal is strengthened by the incorporation of both watershed and climate change science to support the prescriptions.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including a discussion of the different piñon-juniper forest stand types presented by Romme and others (2007 and 2009) and the implications of those types on forest management and restoration.

8. The project would protect old and large trees and retain large diameter piñon and juniper species, which is consistent with scientific management recommendations for piñon-juniper woodlands.

9. Past CFRP projects by the proponent have resulted in the establishment of new restoration businesses that will be employed in this project. Local wildland firefighters will have the opportunity to get National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) training in burning, which will add capacity. The proposed implementation of a 20 acre trial stewardship block program is unique and would be likely to increase the engagement and awareness of the local community. Peñasco Independent Schools committed 40 hours of education for their students.

10. The proponents of this project have an outstanding history of success in advancing forest restoration in New Mexico.

11. The proposal is strengthened by incorporating the North Central New Mexico Landscape Assessment and the watershed based assessment of the Lower Embudo Valley.

12. The proposed project area is a priority for treatment identified in a 2011 CFRP planning grant.

13. Per acre treatment costs budgeted for the proposed project are appropriate for the stand type.

14. This proposal leverages past CFRP funds.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 19-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	HR Vigil Small Products
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Vigil Small Products Sustainability and Expanded Forest Restoration at Black Lake
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	51.43

Administrative Notes:

Santa Fe Eco Wood is listed as a partner in the Table 4 on page 3 of the application, but there is no letter of commitment from them. Public comment provided by Mr. Vigil and Rachel Wood in a letter dated March 20, 2014 indicated that EcoWood's name in the table was an oversight/typo; they were not in fact a project partner. Given that EcoWood's name does not appear as a partner in any other place in the application narrative or budget and the clarification provided by the applicant, the Panel determined that EcoWood was not in fact a partner to the project.

Shiloh Old recused himself from participating the review of this proposal. Prior to its review on April 9, 2014, Shiloh Old left the room at 11:20 am. He returned at 11:45 am after the Panel completed scoring. He also recused himself during the consistency review of this proposal on April 10, 2014 from 4:22pm to 4:33 pm.

1. The proposal narrative and the letter of support from the Forest Supervisor indicate that prescribed fire will and has been used in the planning area. The proposed mechanical treatment will decrease the risk of high intensity fire.

2. The proposal narrative and the letter of support from the Forest Supervisor indicate that prescribed fire will and has been used in the planning area. The proposal demonstrates a commitment to reintroduction of fire by the State Land Office and the Forest Supervisor's Office and hence will promote the reintroduction of appropriate fire to the area.

3. No comment.

4. The proposed project would use small diameter material as firewood and purchase a firewood processor to achieve this goal. David Old would collaborate with the proponent to place them on the Old Wood website to assist them in targeting a larger audience to sell firewood.

5. The \$25,000 cash match from the State Land Office strengthens the application. Although the work plan for 2014 indicates that work would be done only between September and November, the 2015 and 2016 work plans include the period from April to November. Although the grazing lessee is a collaborator on the project, he does not commit in his letter to resting grasslands after treatment or burning to ensure recovery.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical treatment and ground disturbing activities during the breeding season for birds (April-July).

6. The proposal includes the CFRP core indicators for ecological monitoring.

Recommendation: Consider matching indicators to the specific objectives in each forest type.

7. The proposal is strengthened by using current scientific forest restoration information. The prescriptions are specific to vegetation types and are supported by current science. The proposal includes a non-specific diameter limit because the proponent plans to use pre-treatment data to assess the definition of old and large trees.

8. The project narrative makes a commitment to preserve large and old trees.

9. The project would support 5 existing jobs, employ 7 youth from the Forest Guild YCC, and involve 7-12 New Mexico Highlands University students in monitoring.

10. The proponent has successfully implemented CFRP projects in the past and then used monitoring information from those projects in this proposal, which demonstrates their capability to successfully implement the project.

11. Although this project will encompass only State Land Office property it is an excellent example of multi-jurisdictional collaboration to accomplish forest restoration goals.

12. The Angel Fire CWPP and State Assessment of Resources indicates that the proposed activity is a priority area for hazardous fuels reduction. The letter from the Carson National Forest also states that this is a priority area for treatment.

13. No comment.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 20-14 Rev.
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Griegos Logging
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Las Vegas (Gallinas) Municipal Watershed WUI Fuels Reduction Project Phase 2
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	49.11

Administrative Notes:

Shiloh Old recused himself from participating in the review of this proposal. Prior to its review on April 9, 2014, Shiloh Old left the room at 1:30 pm. He returned at 2:10 pm after the Panel completed scoring. He also recused himself during the consistency review of this proposal on April 10, 2014 from 4:22pm to 4:33 pm.

1. The proposal narrative and the letter of support from the Forest Supervisor and District Ranger indicate that prescribed fire would and has been used in the proposed project area. The proposal's objectives are directly in line with the CFRP criteria to restore forest and watershed health.

2. The proposal narrative and the letter of support from the Forest Supervisor and District Ranger indicate that prescribed fire would and has been used in the planning area.

3. No comment.

4. The proposed feller buncher purchase would increase the proponent's capacity to accomplish forest restoration goals and increase the capacity of the overall industry. The material removed from this project would be processed into firewood as well as flooring material, latillas, and vigas by value-added business.

5. The application includes a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical treatment and ground disturbing activities during the breeding season for birds (April-July). A similar comment was made last year.

6. The proposal includes the CFRP core indicators for ecological monitoring and references the CFRP wildlife monitoring guidelines.

Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including a monitoring indicator for their objective 3 (educational component).

7. The proposal is strengthened by including current scientific forest restoration information and referencing the NM Forest Restoration Principles.

8. This project would preserve old and large trees, but it would be strengthened by a more complete discussion of how this would be accomplished.

9. The project would create 5-8 new seasonal jobs. All employees would receive Forest Workers Safety training. Mora Independent School District commits 20 students from their environmental science class to participate in prescription development, scientific monitoring, education and outreach.

10. The company has been involved in the industry for several years and successfully completed previous CFRP grants.

11. Although this project would only occur on FS land, it would be multi-jurisdictional because it would leverage treatment on private land. The proposal references the Natural Resource Plan for the Gallinas Watershed Restoration Plan.

12. The project area is a high priority for hazardous fuels reduction because it is in the municipal watershed for the City of Las Vegas, and would protect part of the water supply for residents of that City.

13. The project would treat 300 acres of forest land and purchase a major piece of equipment. The equipment would allow the applicant to treat more acres than is often the case in CFRP projects.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 21-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Santa Fe County Fire Department
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Reducing Wildfire Risk and Changing the Dots, A WUI Project
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 239,990
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 60,010

TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 300,000
EVALUATION SCORE: 42.25

Administrative Notes:

Krys Nystrom recused herself from participating in the review of this proposal. Prior to its review on April 9, 2014, Krys Nystrom left the room at 2:22 pm. She returned at 2:55 pm after the Panel completed scoring. She also recused herself during the consistency review of this proposal on April 10, 2014 from 4:34 pm to 4:42 pm.

See Appendix G for public comment related to this application.

1. This project would create a fuel break to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and protect the community of La Cueva Road.
 2. The project would help safeguard WUI communities, which may lead to better acceptance of natural fire in surrounding forest lands.
 3. No comment.
 4. The proposal presents an opportunity to work with the value-added forest product industry to improve the economic benefit to the community, although none of these industry partners were specifically identified. Furthermore, there are no letters of support from potential local industry partners.
 5. Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical treatment and ground disturbing activities during the breeding season for birds (April-July).
- Recommendation: Work with stakeholders to create a prescription that is within the realm of the NEPA decision and more closely aligned to *General Technical Report 310: Restoring Composition and Structure in Southwestern Frequent Fire Forests*.
6. The proposal includes the CFRP core indicators for ecological monitoring and socio-economic indicators.
- Recommendation: The proposal would be strengthened by including a monitoring indicator for the wood utilization objective.
7. The proposal lacks scientific references. The proposal narrative references the NEPA decision and letters of support include scientific references, but it would be strengthened by including a discussion of the science in the narrative. The current scientific information (GTR 310) indicates that a clumpy treatment with interspersed areas can accomplish hazardous fuels reduction objectives and ecological restoration objectives.

8. The proposal mentions that trees up to 24” will be removed. Fuel break/reduction projects should emphasize thinning from below and seek to preserve the largest and oldest trees in the stand.

Recommendation: Reexamine the prescription in light of GTR 310 and the CFRP requirement to preserve old and large trees to address both fuel reduction and ecological restoration objectives.

9. The proponents have a good track record of providing local employment and training opportunities. Three positions funded by past CFRP grants have evolved into full time positions. Students from NM Highlands University would participate in ecological monitoring, develop burn plans, and shadow burn operations (if they have red cards).

10. The proponent’s past performance on CFRP grants demonstrates their ability to successfully implement the project.

11. The proposal is for treatment on Forest Service land, but the partners have leveraged funding and implemented treatments across state and private lands within the landscape (Supporting and Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency grant and USFS/NM State Forestry Forest Stewardship funds).

12. The proposed activity would take place in a high priority hazardous fuels reduction area that was specified in Santa Fe County CWPP as a high risk WUI. It is a special priority because this populated canyon only has one point of entry and egress. The project would be located primarily in fire regime condition class 2 and 3 stands, which indicate heavy ladder fuels and dense stands of small trees.

13. Recommendation: The price per acre is high. Provide a justification for that cost.

14. The project would facilitate the protection of communities from wildfire by allowing more flexibility in wildland fire management. It would also be part of a landscape scale effort that would contribute to the protection of the Santa Fe watershed.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 22-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Padilla Logging Restoration LLC
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Cordova's Landscape Restoration Project
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 359,889
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 89,979
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 449,868
EVALUATION SCORE:	50.25

1. The proposed action would reduce the risk of high intensity fire and restore forest structure.
2. The letter from the Coyote Ranger District references the Cordova Restoration Thinning and Prescribed Fire Project District Memo, which includes prescribed fire.
3. No comment.
4. The proposed feller buncher purchase would increase the applicants capacity for forest restoration and increase industry capacity overall. This proposal included strong letters of support from numerous industry partners in the area who together have the capability to create value-added products from material that has a minimum of 2 inches in diameter. This is significant because it will allow for the highest use of the various timber sizes.
5. The letter of support from the Sierra Club offers non-federal match for the project.

Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical treatment and ground disturbing activities during the breeding season for birds (April-July).

Recommendation: Vigorous outreach to grazing permittees in the area should be conducted to encourage them to collaborate with the project and commit to resting following treatment and burning.

6. The proposal includes the CFRP core indicators for ecological monitoring and socio-economic indicators.
7. The proposal is strengthened by current scientific forest restoration information and reference to the NM Forest Restoration Principles.
8. The proposal states on pages 1 and 6 that the project would preserve old and large trees, but it also mentions that trees up to 24” would be removed. Restoration projects should emphasize thinning from below and seek to preserve the largest and oldest trees in the stand.

Recommendation: Reexamine the prescription to address both fuel reduction and ecological restoration objectives in light of the CFRP requirement to preserve old and large trees.

9. The proponent plans to hire three people indirectly and create three jobs. Page 7 indicates that high school and college students will participate.

Recommendation: Clarify whether the students would work for Forest Guild Youth Corps. If not, letters of commitment from participating schools and colleges should be included.

10. The proponent has 23 years of experience in forestry and thinning.

11. The project would complement two additional WUI projects and address restoration objectives on a total landscape of 11,000 acres, but it would not include multiple jurisdictions.

12. The Rio Arriba CWPP, Coyote and Gallina WUI, and NEPA document all indicate that the proposed activity is in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction.

13. This project represents particularly a good value for the number of acres treated. The cost of the equipment being requested is reasonable.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 23-14 Rev.
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Rio Puerco Alliance
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: La Jara Headwaters: Restoration & Resource Management in a Wildland-Urban Interface, Revision
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 189,479
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 49,098
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 238,577
EVALUATION SCORE:	47.56

1. This proposal addresses a very real and important hazard to the community. The project would reduce the threat to the community and its water supply and restore ecosystem functions that provide services to the community.

2. The project would enable the return of fire to the landscape. The letter from the Forest Service District Ranger supports the project, but does not mention prescribed fire. The narrative and the Decision memo, however, do commit to using fire.

3. No comment.

4. The proposal states that the Forest Service requested that the majority of thinned material be made available to the local community for fuel wood. The project would include a mulching component where applicable and distribute the mulch to local farms.

5. The proposal lists a diverse and balanced group of stake holders, including tribal and acequia interests. The project would support local cottage industries by linking the utilization community with a community garden/farmer's market.

Recommendation: Vigorous outreach to the grazing permittee should be made in order to encourage him to collaborate with the project and commit to resting following treatment and burning.

6. The monitoring component includes ecological indicators specific to the prescription and socio-economic indicators specific to the objectives.

7. The project would preserve old and large trees by not cutting anything over 12” in diameter. The proposal went further than many in addressing stand conditions in piñon-juniper.

Recommendation: The scientific basis for this project could be strengthened if more references to the scientific literature were provided that address in more detail the different piñon-juniper forest types that are described by Romme and others (2007 and 2009) and 8.

9. The proposal incorporates Cuba Independent schools to help River Source with the ecological monitoring.

10. The proposal includes a contractor that has experience in performing this type of work (Alamo Navajo).

11. The project would not facilitate landscape scale, multijurisdictional efforts.

12. The proposed project would occur in a high priority area for hazardous fuels reduction. The area is in a watershed that is the sole source of water for a community and an acequia.

13. The majority of funds being requested are for on the ground implementation using Alamo Navajo Forest workers. The project would leverage previous CFRP projects by using machinery and equipment purchased through those grants. The total per acre treatment costs is very low for a ‘drop and go’ operation.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 24-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	American Wildfire Suppression Services Inc.
FOREST:	Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE:	White Oaks Forest Restoration and Fuelwood CFRP Implementation Project
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 357,210
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 88,257
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 445,467
EVALUATION SCORE:	57.50

1. The project would implement mechanical and prescribed fire treatments and increase prescribed fire capacity in the State. It would also improve wildlife habitat and restore riparian areas by controlling erosion.
2. The proposed field trips to demonstration sites on private land could potentially increase acceptance of prescribed burns. Cooperative prescribed burning would increase fire management capacity. The project would implement mechanical and prescribed fire treatments and increase prescribed fire capacity in the State. The grazing permittee is a collaborator and commits to resting grazing lands after prescribed fire.
4. The material removed from the project area would be sold as firewood in the local market. The New Mexico Forest Industry Association has agreed to help the proponent find other regional markets for marketable materials.
5. The collaborative is contributing additional non-federal match for the project and leveraging funding from multiple sources. That includes funding from a private conservation group.
6. The proposal includes core monitoring indicators. The monitoring plan is strengthened by including indicators to measure the increase in the project partners capacity to implement prescribed fire, wildlife infrastructure, and detailed burn project objectives. The Lincoln County Weed Management Association would conduct sediment and water yield monitoring to show how treatments affect water quality.
7. The proposal is strengthened by good use of current scientific forest restoration information and citations to the literature. Leaving the largest diameter trees and using a clumpy pattern was emphasized. This proposal will time treatments and burns to avoid nesting seasons of birds (April to July).

Recommendation: The scientific basis for this project could be strengthened if it provided more references to the scientific literature and more information on the different piñon-juniper forest types described by Romme and others (2007 and 2009).

8. The proposal emphasized using a clumpy pattern and leaving the largest diameter trees. The project would use a diameter limit of 14" diameter at breast height (dbh) for piñon and 18" diameter at root collar (drc) for juniper.
9. The project would create at least 4 jobs. Project partners would involve youth in community outreach programs.
10. The letter from the District Ranger indicated that the company has a track record of being a thorough and dependable partner.
11. The project would be a significant multijurisdictional effort due to the number of partners who are landowners.

12. The area is identified as a priority in the 2014 Lincoln County CWPP.
13. A mechanical fuel treatment cost of \$650 per acre is significantly lower than past proposals submitted to treat acres on the Lincoln National Forest.
14. This proposal increases the potential for prescribed burning by building on a previous CFRP project. It represents innovative, multiparty, cross jurisdictional prescribed burning and has the potential to expand the number of acres treated with prescribed fire.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 25-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Romero's Firewood LLC
FOREST:	Cibola
PROJECT TITLE:	Building Local Forest Industry Capacity in Central New Mexico through Restoration and Education in the Manzano Mountains
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 358,995
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 448,995
EVALUATION SCORE:	52.68

1. The proposed project would reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfire and contribute to watershed protection. This project would be in a watershed that provides water to Village of Manzano. The proponents and the Forest Service District Ranger have committed to prescribed.
2. The proponents and the District Ranger have committed to prescribed burning.
3. No comment.
4. The proponent will be using materials purchased from the project area to manufacture various value-added products, much of which he sells out of state. This is of special importance in the Manzanos, where there is a lack of forest products industries.
5. No comment.
6. The monitoring plan includes CFRP core indicators and explicit indicators for each project goal. The letter of endorsement from the Forest Service District Ranger commits to supporting the project multiparty monitoring.
7. The proposal includes current scientific forest restoration information and cites the literature. The project would adhere to the New Mexico Forest Restoration Principles which were included in the appendix of the application. It is a strength that the proponents have specific mitigation plans

for timing of activities during the migratory bird nesting season. The proposed actions would actually reduce erosion risk and would be in response to previous management actions that caused erosion problems.

8. The proposal mentions that they will retain all trees 16” diameter and larger to achieve desired conditions.

9. The proposal indicates that the project would create 4-6 jobs and create a partnership with Mountainair High School science classes.

10. The applicant has not received CFRP funding in the past, but they have been operating for more than 20 years, which demonstrates their capability to successfully implement the proposed project.

11. The proposed treatment would be part of a landscape scale project that would complement other completed restoration treatments that benefit neighboring landowners (including land grants).

12. The proposed project area is identified as a priority in the 2012 list of New Mexico Communities at Risk and the Manzano Community and Watershed CWPP.

13. The cost is reasonable and would be a good value for CFRP funds. The cost is amongst the lowest the Panel has seen in previous CFRP applications.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 26-14
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Edgewood SWCD
FOREST:	Cibola
PROJECT TITLE:	Restoring Forest and Watershed Health and Functioning within a Multijurisdictional ponderosa pine/piñon-juniper landscape, Manzano Mountains, New Mexico
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	54.33

1. The proposed project would reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfire, and contribute to watershed protection. The proponents and the Forest Service District Ranger have committed to prescribed burning. The proposal addresses high and extreme fire risk across multiple land jurisdictions.

2. The proponents and the Forest Service District Ranger have committed to prescribed burning.

3. No comment.

4. Recommendation: The proposal would have been strengthened by an explanation of how the proponent intends to produce and distribute the firewood coming from the project area.
5. The proposal is strengthened by the fact that treatment on tribal lands will be performed by tribal members.
6. The monitoring plan includes core indicators and is strengthened by providing explicit indicators for each goal of the project. The Forest Service District letter also committed to support multiparty monitoring.
7. The proposal includes current scientific forest restoration information and cites the literature. The project would adhere to the New Mexico Forest Restoration Principles and includes them as an appendix to the application. The scientific information provided was largely applicable to ponderosa pine and not piñon-juniper. The Forest clarified that the project will pay special attention to the specifics of piñon-juniper restoration. It is a strength that the proponents have specific mitigation plans for timing of activities during the migratory bird nesting season. The project would actually reduce erosion risk and be a response to previous management actions that caused erosion problems.
- Recommendation: The proposal could have been strengthened with a discussion of the piñon-juniper restoration science and stand type concepts outlined in Romme and others (2009).
8. The project would preserve and enhance conditions for old and large trees.
9. The proposal includes training for up to 30 youth from Edgewood Soil and Watershed Conservation District and Isleta Pueblo in multiparty monitoring and Common Stand Exams. The monitoring data they collect would be incorporated into the Forest Service FS Veg database. Forest workers would take NMFIA forest worker safety training.
10. The proponent's resume demonstrates past experience and success in managing and implementing other grants.
11. The proposed treatment would be part of a landscape scale project that would complement other completed restoration treatments that benefit neighboring landowners (including land grants). The location of the proposed activities and the partners described in this proposal strengthen its multijurisdictional character.
12. The proposed project area is listed as a priority in the East Mountain and Torrance County CWPPs.
13. The cost is reasonable and would be a good value for CFRP funds. The costs are among the lowest the Panel has seen in previous CFRP applications.
14. This project would serve as a catalyst for cross training forest workers.

Panel Process Recommendations

Change criteria 10 in Scoring Sheet to read: Have the proponents demonstrated the capability to successfully implement and administer the proposed project?

Change criteria 11 in Scoring Sheet to read: Does the proposal facilitate landscape-scale and/or cross-jurisdictional efforts?

Change criteria 12 in Scoring Sheet to read: Is the proposed activity a priority for fuel reduction or forest restoration?

Recommendation: The proponent could give a 5 minute presentation to the panel to introduce the application. The applicant may choose who will give the presentation but it should be from the collaborative group or the CFRP coordinator. Applicants may want to address the following questions in their presentation: Where have you been? Where are you now? and Where do you want to go with the grant funding?

The Forest Service requested that Panel members provide language in their report to support both high and low scores for each of the evaluation criterion.

Panel members would like to receive an electronic version of the scoring sheet prior to the Panel meeting that is not formatted to facilitate cutting and pasting notes on the proposals.

RFA Recommendations

Maintain the 50 page limit for appendices but exclude the Decision Memo from the 50 page limit.

Glossary

BLM: Bureau of Land Management
BOR: Bureau of Reclamation
CFLRP: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project
CFRP: Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
CWPP: Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWMA: Cooperative Weed Management Areas
DBH: Diameter at Breast Height
DRC: Diameter at Root Collar
EA: Environmental Assessment
EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
ESA: Endangered Species Act
EMNRD: Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
ENMU: Eastern New Mexico University
EQUIP: Environmental Quality Incentive Program
FRCC: Fire Regime Condition Class
GPS: Geographic Positioning System
LANL: Los Alamos National Laboratory
MSO: Mexican Spotted Owl
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
NMEP: New Mexico Environment Program
NWTF: National Wild Turkey Federation
PAC: Protected Area Center
Panel: The CFRP Technical Advisory Panel
Parciantes: People who utilize an assequia.
NMSLO: New Mexico State Land Office
TNC: The Nature Conservancy
WUI: Wildland Urban Interface
YCC: Youth Conservation Corps

APPENDIX A

Scores for 2014 CFRP Applications

Proposal Number	Lead Organization	Federal Request	Final Score
Planning			
CFRP 03-14 (P)	Racher Resource Mgt LLC	\$239,968	51.84
CFRP 04-14 (P)	City of Alamogordo	\$356,504	50.56
CFRP 02-14 (P)	Rocky Mountain Ecology LLC	\$286,602	47.47
CFRP 05-14 (P)	Sustainable Ecosystems LLC	\$360,000	45.91
CFRO 01-14 (P)	Cimarron Watershed Alliance	\$260,425	45.63
Utilization			
CFRP 06-14 (U)	Old Wood LLC	\$360,000	54.54
CFRP 10-14 (U)	Ellinger Logging	\$360,000	51.78
CFRP 07-14 (U)	Roger Tucker Inc.	\$360,000	48.56
CFRP 09-14 (U)	Spotted Owl Timber	\$360,000	43.47
CFRP 11-14 Rev (U)	Restoration Technologies	\$359,416	42.13
Implementation			
CFRP 24-14 (I)	American Wildfire Suppression Services Inc.	\$357,210	57.50
CFRP18-14 (I)	Forest Guild	\$357,308	56.17
CFRP 26-14 (I)	Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District	\$360,000	54.33
CFRP 25-14 (I)	Romero's Firewood	\$358,995	52.68
CFRP 19-14 (I)	HR Vigil Small Products	\$360,000	51.43
CFRP 22-14 (I)	Padilla Logging Restoration	\$359,889	50.25
CFRP 12-14 (I)	Gila Tree Thinners	\$305,520	49.47
CFRP 15-14 (I)	Rocky Mountain Ecology LLC	\$360,000	49.44
CFRP 20-14 Rev (I)	Griegos Logging	\$360,000	49.11
CFRP 14-14 (I)	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	\$359,119	48.93
CFRP 16-14 Rev (I)	Andy Chacon Forest Restoration	\$360,000	48.50

CFRP 23-14 Rev (I)	Rio Puerco Alliance	\$189,479	47.56
CFRP 21-14 (I)	Santa Fe County Fire Dept.	\$239,990	42.25

APPENDIX B



2014 Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Technical Advisory Panel List of Recommended Proposals

PLANNING

1) Wildfire and Water Source Protection for New Mexico

Racher Resource Management, LLC

Federal Request \$239,968

Abstract: Racher Resource Management, LLC will collaborate with the New Mexico Forest Industry Association, The Nature Conservancy and other partners to integrate the activities of the forest industry, land management agencies, local governments, and the private sector to achieve large-scale restoration in high priority forested watersheds. This project engage stakeholders to develop public-private partnerships to make coordinated investments in forest restoration, build entrepreneurial capacity, and provide integrated workforce training. The project will focus on accelerating the implementation of restoration treatments in the Sandia, Manzano, and Jemez Mountain areas, and engaging stakeholders in other forested areas in New Mexico.

Partners: US Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office; Cibola National Forest; Santa Fe National Forest; The Nature Conservancy; New Mexico Forest Industry Assoc.; New Mexico Office of the Superintendent of Insurance; Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority; New Mexico Farm Bureau; New Mexico Cattle Growers Association; Central New Mexico Community College; Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos; Walatowa Timber; South Central Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D); Wells Fargo; and Power New Mexico Resources.

2) Westside Sacramento Mountains Watershed Restoration and Fuels Reduction Plan

City of Alamogordo

Federal Request \$356,504

Abstract: The City of Alamogordo will complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for 6,696 acres of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, piñon pine, juniper and oak forests in the western Sacramento Mountains east of Alamogordo and west of Cloudcroft in Otero County. The area encompasses Forest Service and city owned property and is bordered by Mescalero Tribal and private lands. The City of Alamogordo determined that reducing the fuel load in this area was critical after the Little Bear Fire of 2012 devastated Bonito Lake, the primary source of water for the city. These watersheds also support the surrounding communities of Cloudcroft and Highrolls.

Partners: USDA Forest Service Sacramento Ranger District; SWCA Environmental Consultants; Four Corners Research, Inc.; EcoServants; New Mexico State Forestry Division; Bureau of Indian

Affairs, Mescalero Apache Tribe; Native Plant Society, Otero Chapter; Natural Resources Conservation Services; Otero County Soil and Water Conservation District; Village of Cloudcroft; National Wild Turkey Federation; Otero County Forest Restoration Working Group; New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; US Bureau of Land Management; and South Central Mountain RC&D.

SMALL DIAMETER TREE UTILIZATION

3) High Volume Production in Flooring from Small Diameter Timber

Old Wood, LLC

Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: The proponent has successfully created and marketed plank and wood block flooring using small diameter timber from forest restoration projects on Federal and Tribal land in New Mexico. The proposed project will increase the production capability and volume of Old Wood's wood block flooring manufacturing process by adding computer numeric control, nested manufacturing, modern panel spraying, and automated 'optimizing'. This will allow the applicant to transition from handmade processes to more automated production for larger markets that will result in an increase in the volume of small diameter material utilized. Approximately nine jobs will be created as a result of the project.

Partners: USDA Forest Service; Rachel Wood Consulting; Forest Guild; Alamo Navajo School Board; Luna Community College; the Manufacturing Extension Partnership; H.R. Vigil Small Products; Silver Dollar Racing & Shavings; Walatowa Timber; K&B Timberworks; Griegos Logging, LLC; and Barela Timber Management Co.

4) Adding Small Diameter Processing Capability to the Existing Ellinger Logging Sawmill

Ellinger Logging

Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: This project will improve the use of, and add value to, small diameter trees by expanding an existing sawmill in Alamogordo, which uses material from forest management activities on the Lincoln National Forest. The applicant will purchase a scragg mill and other equipment that will quadruple the volume of small diameter material processed with the same amount of handling. Increasing the processing efficiency will make the production of 4x6, 4x4, 2x4, and 1x4 boards more economical. Processing more material, especially small diameter logs, increases waste material. To utilize that material the project will purchase processing and handling equipment that will convert the waste material into a marketable firewood product.

Partners: Lincoln National Forest Sacramento District; Mark Hare Forestry Consultant; Dodson Lumber; Sweatt Construction Inc.; New Mexico Ties and Poles LLC.; Low Grade Lumber; Southwest Lumber Graphics; Cloudcroft High School FFA; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Otero County Working Group; and Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen.

IMPLEMENTATION:

5) White Oaks Forest Restoration and Fuelwood Project

American Wildfire Suppression Services, Inc.

Federal Request \$357,210

Abstract: The project will build on the accomplishments of two innovative and successful CFRP projects which have conducted prescribed burns on state land using local resources and private prescribed fire contractors. Following this model, the project will implement over 300 acres of mechanical and prescribed fire treatments in piñon-juniper stands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and encourage the use of prescribed fire. This project will. Local firewood contractors will thin over 300 acres on National Forest and State land. Federal, volunteer, and contract fire crews and prescribed fire practitioners will then implement prescribed fire on those acres. Conservation groups and local stakeholders will make improvements to wildlife habitat and riparian areas and conduct community outreach and youth education. The project will also leverage additional private and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) funding to treat up to 200 additional acres which will contribute to landscape scale restoration and resiliency.

Partners: Lincoln National Forest; New Mexico State Land Office; New Mexico State Forestry; White Oaks Fire Department; NRG Consulting Services; New Mexico Forest Industry Assoc.; National Wild Turkey Federation; Carrizozo Soil and Water Conservation District; Lincoln County Weed Assoc.; EcoServants; South Central Mountain RC&D; Caggiano Consulting; and private land owners.

6) Rio de las Trampas Watershed Restoration Phase I: State Trust Lands

Forest Guild

Federal Request \$357,308

Abstract: The Forest Guild, the New Mexico State Land Office, and a diverse array of collaborators will restore forests and watersheds through treatments across 350- 450 acres of State Trust land in the Rio Trampas watershed in North-Central New Mexico. Restoration activities will occur in piñon-juniper shrub land, woodland, and ponderosa pine cover types. The project will generate approximately 300-350 cords of firewood and latillas, support ten restoration practitioner jobs, employ 15 local youth, and engage five local communities in Fire Adapted Community outreach.

Partners: New Mexico State Land Office; Picuris Pueblo; Bureau of Land Management Taos Field Office; Carson National Forest; Northern Pueblos Agency; Ecotone Consulting; Arid Lands Institute; New Mexico State Forestry Cimarron District; Acequia Abajo in El Valle; Garo's General Works; Penasco High School; and Taos County Envirothon.

7) Restoring Forest and Watershed Health and Functioning within a Multi-jurisdictional Ponderosa Pine/Piñon Juniper Landscape in the Manzano Mountains of New Mexico

Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District

Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: The Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District (ESWCD), in collaboration with the Pueblo of Isleta and Forest Fitness LLC, will treat and restore 826 acres of piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine woodlands on a multijurisdictional landscape through mechanical and hand thinning. This project will complement the landscape-scale forest restoration effort proposed by the Cibola National Forest Mountainair Ranger District within and around the project area. The project area is designated as a high to extreme fire risk in the East Mountain and Torrance County Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The proposed treatment areas were analyzed under the completed Environmental Assessment for the Isleta Collaborative Landscape Analysis Project, which was a multijurisdictional planning effort. Project partners will work with approximately 30 local youth from the Pueblo of Isleta and the ESWCD to train them in ecological monitoring and the principals of forest restoration and ecology.

Partners: Pueblo of Isleta; US Forest Service Mountainair Ranger District, Forest Fitness, LLC, SWCA Environmental Consultants; Estrada Consulting; Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District; New Mexico Forest Industries Association; and The Nature Conservancy.

8) Building Local Forest Industry Capacity in Central New Mexico through Restoration and Education in the Manzano Mountains
Romero's Firewood Federal Request \$358,995

Abstract: The project will conduct forest and watershed restoration on 750 acres of ponderosa pine forest within Red Canyon in the Manzano Mountains of the Cibola National Forest Mountainair Ranger District. The watershed supplies water to the town of Manzano, and is one of the few remaining watersheds within the landscape that has not been burned in recent wildfires. The project would complement landscape-scale work being conducted in the area by the Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District. Local community members will be trained and employed to build workforce capacity. Wood products from the treatments will be processed into rough-cut lumber, furniture, or sold as firewood. A minimum of 50 cords of wood per year will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society, which helps the elderly and families in need in Torrance County. Project partners will educate local High School students in ecological monitoring and the principles of forest restoration.

Partners: Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District; Cibola National Forest Mountainair Ranger District; SWCA Environmental Consultants; Estrada Collaborative Resource Management, LLC; Mountainair High School; New Mexico Forest Industries Association; and The Nature Conservancy.

9) Vigil Small Products Sustainability and Expanded Forest Restoration at Black Lake
HR Vigil Small Products Partial Funding \$195,000
(Fully fund the federal request of \$360,000 if addition funding becomes available)

Abstract: HR Vigil Small Products (VSP) and its partners will treat 250 acres of dense, over stocked, mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forest on State Trust Land north of Black Lake, New Mexico in preparation for prescribed fire. The State Land Office will contribute funds to treat an additional 25 acres adjacent to the proposed project area. The proponent will purchase a firewood processor to increase the safety of producing firewood and improve the utilization of small

diameter trees removed from the project area. Of the material removed, 241 cords of firewood will be donated to elderly residents in Mora and approximately 150 cords will be sold to the Mora County Courthouse for their heating system. The remaining wood will be sold to local businesses as firewood. The project will support 5 workers and provide training and employment for 7 area youth to conduct ecological monitoring through the Forest Guild Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).

Partners: New Mexico State Land Office; Forest Guild; Mora County Commissioner's Office; The Nature Conservancy; New Mexico Highlands University; Southwest Resource Associates; New Mexico Department of Game and Fish; Angel Fire, New Mexico Fire Department; Olguin's Sawmill, Inc.; Old Wood; Santa Fe Eco Wood; Silver Dollar Racing and Shavings; Joe Torres, Grazing Lessee; and CS Ranch.

Projects Recommended Should Additional Funding Become Available

10) Cordova's Landscape Restoration Project

Federal Request \$359,889

Padilla Logging Restoration LLC

Abstract: The project will implement restoration thinning on 315 acres of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest on the Santa Fe National Forest Coyote Ranger District in Rio Arriba County. The treatments will implement the recommendations of the Rio Arriba County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and restore the project area to the historic low-severity fire regime. The proponent will purchase a feller buncher to maximize safety and productivity of the forest treatments. Marketable and non-marketable material removed during the treatments will go to the local community and local mills for processing into rough cut lumber, vigas, firewood, and latillas.

Partners: Santa Fe National Forest Coyote Ranger District; Forest Guild's Youth Conservation Corps; Sierra Club; and Jaramillo & Sons Forest Products.

11) The Burro Mountain WUI Mixed-Treatment Watershed Restoration

Gila Tree Thinners

Federal Request \$305,520

Abstract: The project will implement a mastication lop and scatter watershed restoration treatment on 250 acres of piñon pine and juniper woodland in the Burro Mountain Homestead area of the Gila National Forest Silver City Ranger District. The project seeks to lower thinning costs per acre. The majority of the harvested material will be used for firewood, posts for watershed and stream restoration projects, and saw boles for three local saw mills. The remaining material will be left to supply firewood to the local community. Six employees will receive Forest Worker Safety Training and Certification and will be cross-trained in the safe operation of forestry shredding equipment. Seven Silver City Aldo Leopold High School (ALHS) YCC students will conduct ecological monitoring.

Partners: Gila National Forest Silver City Ranger District; BMH and U-Bar Ranch; Aldo Leopold High School; Arid Lands Innovation; Center for Biological Diversity; New Mexico State Forestry; Western New Mexico University Small Business Development Center; Restoration Technologies; Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery; Winston Works; Centerline Log and Timber; Southwest Tree Solutions; and the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

APPENDIX C

CFRP TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Multi-Party Assessment Reports

USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region Office

September 4, 2013

Approved by Panel April 7, 2014

General Observations:

- A large variety of results were observed. It seems that the implementation projects were often successful in meeting their stated objectives. Utilization projects were often successful but not in the way the project was envisioned (29-09, 27-08). This is a key lesson learned that needs to be passed on to future applicants.
- 25-08 includes an excellent description of challenges to supporting sustaining communities which arise as a result of a competitive process in awarding contracts. Supporting local businesses may not always be the least cost alternative for the land management agency, but may be necessary to create local capacity. The agency can use best value as a consideration in contracting to address the need to build local capacity, but that may not result in the most number of acres treated per dollar, which may affect the forest's performance and future budget allocation.
- Some national forests and regions of the State are not as investment-oriented or visionary as others, and this discussion should be elevated for agency consideration.
- Projects with strong oversight or management seem to be more successful in meeting their objectives and produce high quality multiparty monitoring reports.
- When an established organization is involved and a passionate individual/champion provides strong leadership, the projects are almost always successful. New applicants might consider working with an experienced collaborator or contractor. 05-07, 13-07, 23-08, 07-08, 08-08, 20-08, 25-08, 05-09, 28-07 are all good examples. Consistency in partners (both agency and local) is critical. As agency people change, the integrity of the project must be maintained and protected. Success in meeting stated objectives seems correlated with the presence of partners that demonstrate an already existing collaborative capacity. (For example, projects administered by the Forest Guild and tribes were less likely to succumb to loss of collaborators.)

- Innovation may have different implications for different categories of proposals. Innovation in planning could be a payment for ecosystem services project in the Santa Fe watershed. A start up business is not typically as successful and may be a more risky investment for CFRP funds.
- Alamo is successful because they have personnel experienced with federal compliance: experienced leaders and an experienced compliance officer on the ground (foreman).
- Compensating partners for participating helps to ensure their presence.
- Coordinators should give relevant multi-party assessment reports to grant recipients and applicants and ask them to review them before writing their own proposal or report. (The Regional Office will post examples of MPM reports online.)
- K&B could not complete their project as planned because other project collaborators could not fulfill their obligations. Where FS is invested, projects will succeed as FS can support the project.
- Monitoring programs would be more successful if they show how the ongoing monitoring would inform the future planning and implementation of the project.
- The CFRP may be progressing to a point where long-term socio-economic assessment of projects could generate lessons learned from successful projects.
- Proponents should provide in their applications evidence of strong leadership and administrative capacity, such as successful oversight of previous projects and evidence of success on past CFRP or other related endeavors. The Panel should seek to fund applications which demonstrate strong leadership and administrative capacity. Collaboration needs to be more than a contract for monitoring.

Implementation:

- Proponents and the Panel need to know that NEPA ready acres do not equal treatment ready acres. Limited resources for treatment preparations can often limit the number of readily available acres for treatment and impact the time required to prepare maps, prescriptions, etc. Project may want to consider including site preparation costs as a part of the proposal given the limited ability of land management agency to prepare the site for treatment.
- Santa Ana (05-07 and 05-09) and Mexicano (23-08) did pretreatment monitoring to inform implementation. Burro Mtn (25-08) switched targets because they found more ponderosa than pinyon-juniper. Panel should recommend that project partners walk through the planned treatment sites prior to developing costs and submitting an application.
- 05-09 shows good lessons learned regarding successful and unsuccessful implementation techniques. A key example is that mastication of exotics prevented regeneration of

cottonwoods, native tree and grass species. Chip depth threshold determines if understory and tree regeneration is inhibited. If projects include mastication they should quantify chip depth by forest type in their monitoring plan because the outcome may be adverse or unknown. If applicant plans to masticate they should reference the scientific information on positive and negative impacts of residual chip depth.

- 07-07 has developed good baseline data for planting and success in natural vegetation response in bosque areas effected by wildfire and treated areas. Bosque restoration projects in Middle Rio Grande should look to these reports.
- 08-08 Chacon & Sons demonstrated the value of adaptive management by changing the clumping called for in the prescriptions mid-project. More projects should build in that flexibility. Because partners had implemented prior CFRP projects with the same multi-monitoring team members, there was greater trust among partners and success in meeting project goals. The partners have consistently adapted prescriptions as needed to meet objectives.
- Some of the reports (Black Lake 06-10 and Burro Mtn 25-08) have very detailed info on cost per acre. In CFRP, systematic assessment of cost per acre could be collated across projects to arrive at a cost function.
- Project proponents should use GPS to mark monitoring sites for future reference.
- Implementation costs are reduced when crews camp onsite.

Implementation and Utilization:

- The fire on the Gila affected the treatment areas where K&B (29-09) planned to remove small diameter wood. Good partnerships with many varied land managers could provide other avenues for businesses to recover small diameter wood.
- Wood supply remains a barrier to project success. Proponents should have had more certainty with regard to the availability of NEPA ready and site prepped acres. The Panel needs to make sure the applicant knows that there is an available supply of small diameter material. Even if there is a wildfire in the area, the grantee should have somewhere else to go. A back up plan should be in place on other public lands such as state or county lands. Insect/disease outbreak, the presence of threatened and endangered species, or fire can also change the sites availability for treatment. For example, the Forest Service does not put timber sales out unless replacement timber areas are identified. When assessing the quality of both implementation and utilization proposals, the Panel should look for contingency plans and the availability of alternative locations to supply small diameter material to operators.

- It is important for a proponent to show a diversity of sources, however contingency planning can only go so far where the Forest Service is the only significant source of material and large scale wildfire occurs.
- Note: 25-08 used a CFRP business plan to secure a loan which enabled the business to stabilize during the economic downturn. Also their multiparty monitoring report is outstanding and could serve as an example to other projects and be posted as an example because the proponent focused on telling us what he did and what he learned rather than repeating the project proposal. Likewise with 05-07.
- Only implementation applications require a letter from the land management agencies identifying NEPA ready acres. Successful utilization proponents identified sources of material and markets for their products.
- Focusing on precise job FTEs supported by the CFRP funds helped demonstrate how a CFRP funded job contributed to someone's year round employment. (The CFRP funded job may have only been ¼ of the person's job.) Reports that calculate accurate FTEs help describe how CFRP is contributing to economic outcomes (eg. 08-08). A narrative explaining the FTE is helpful.

Utilization:

- Review of utilization projects should be carefully considered when proponents are fabricating new equipment (Santa Clara). Similar lessons have been learned from FPL grants. Businesses with a long term track record of success would be more suitable grant recipients for fabrication of new equipment.
- USFS needs to work with fledgling operators and layout future paths available, benchmarks, goals, etc. to support CFRP grant recipients in becoming successful future contractors. The agency should consider this as its "way of doing business".
- Claims of expected economic impacts and strategic marketing plans often fail to materialize or connect to the results of a cost-benefit analysis. While rare, the results of a cost-benefit analysis often fail to be positive for utilization. Eg. 23-08 did not meet the objective of creating a strategic economic development plan. Some utilization projects are successful as they have ongoing markets. Santo Domingo did a cost-benefit analysis and found a .05 ratio for marketing compost. Utilization projects often are not successful. Proposals often describe unrealistic or exaggerated goals especially when they don't have detailed business plans.
- The Panel needs to consider the age and efficiency of proposed equipment purchases, in particular maintenance cost and lost production time. The Panel should weigh the benefits of new versus used equipment. (USFS now requires applicants to submit a lease vs. purchase determination for equipment. However, some pieces of equipment are not available for lease.)

- Look at alternatives to buying equipment. Applicants often had a hard time predicting what equipment to buy, difficulty finding the equipment that they wanted initially. It is difficult to determine the right piece of equipment and availability of equipment. The forest type the applicant can work in and the “right” piece of equipment often changes midstream of project. Flexibility upon award is important and the possibility of leasing equipment is important.
- Utilization grants are best when markets are already established (Old Wood and Silver Dollar). A grant is designed to add capacity, not initiate those markets. In review, Panel needs to be sure that new startups have solid marketing plans.
- Utilization proposal should clearly describe where the anticipated material will come from.

Planning and Implementation:

- If CFRP funds a planning grant, the implementation proposals which follow should facilitate local collaborative and industry capacity, as that is consistent with the CFRP.

Planning

- 23-08 successfully demonstrates that land grants can obtain and accomplish planning CFRPs that increase partnerships with USFS and other adjacent land managers to solve cross jurisdictional issues.

Outreach and Education:

- 13-07 EMNU really met their education and outreach objectives. Consider sharing the curriculum developed by Ruidoso Municipal schools with other NM high schools that partner with CFRP to conduct outreach and environmental education.
- Successful youth and outreach education components include educational partners with a strong connection to natural resources (Universities, Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Youth Conservation Corps groups and Ruidoso Municipal Schools).
- School program administrators are more effective partners than teachers, as teachers are more transient.

Suggestions for future MPM reports:

- Require a short, less than one page executive summary describing the objectives and accomplishments and providing the reasons planned objectives that were not met.

- Review and revise the recommended outline for multiparty monitoring reports.
- The multiparty monitoring report could be more specific regarding reporting of ecological data and how it relates to desired conditions. A table comparing pre, post, and desired conditions is particularly informative. See 08-08 and 28-07.
- Include the following information in the report: What will go forward after the grant is over? Have jobs been created that will continue after the grant funding is gone? Are the jobs sustainable? How will the collaborative continue to function after the grant? Are there other projects the collaborative is working on? Review and consider using indicators described in the Egan report.
- Consider including in the multiparty monitoring report: What other opportunities did the CFRP grant leverage? What holes did the grant fill in? How does the CFRP treatment unit fit within the larger landscape? Described any multiplying effects of the federal grant investment. For example, a business may obtain a loan using a business plan funded by the CFRP grant. The CFRP Santa Fe Watershed Ecosystem Services planning grant leveraged funding from the water trust board. Alamo Navajo used their CFRP grant to leverage outside training dollars in heavy equipment use and forest worker safety training.

What worked well and what could be improved for future SubCommittee meetings:

- An executive summary added to the reports would be useful.
- Google Drive worked well.
- Facilities (RO worked well)
- Brainstorming format worked well.
- Keep the number of reports at 20 or less.
- Need to address better and synthesis socio-economic accomplishments of CFRP to increase support for and champion program and inform the new planning rule and other audiences, need a scholar to synthesize info.

Reporting back to the Panel:

Chairman Bird will present the report to the Panel in April, 2014.

Panel reviewed and approved report on April 7, 2014.

List of CFRP Multiparty Monitoring Reports Reviewed by SubCommittee:

CFRP Number/Year	Forest	Lead Organization	Title
CFRP 07-04	Carson	Healthy Forest Happy Potters	Healthy Forest-Happy Potters Pot Creek WUI Reduction Project
CFRP 28-06	Gila	Trout Unlimited	Gila Restoration Project: Restoring Forest Watersheds and Native Fish
CFRP 05-07	Cibola	Pueblo of Santa Ana	Reducing Oneseed Juniper in Preparation for Prescribed Fire on the Pueblo of Santa Ana – A Continuing Commitment to Watershed Restoration
CFRP 07-07	Cibola	Tree New Mexico	Bosque Riparian Nursery Restoration Project
CFRP 13-07	Lincoln	Ruidoso Municipal Schools	Ruidoso Schools Natural Resources Outdoor Learning Center
CFRP 17-07	Carson	Kuykendall and Sons Sawmill	Tres Piedras Wildland Urban Interface Restoration and Utilization Project
CFRP 28-07	Santa Fe	Santo Domingo Tribe	Forest to Farm: Composting Forest Residuals to Support Community Agriculture
CFRP 07-08	Carson	Rocky Mountain Youth	Youth Restoring the Forest: RMYC's La Jara Canyon CFRP Proposal
CFRP 08-08	Carson	Chacon & Sons	Ensenada Forest Health Restoration Project II
CFRP 17-08	Carson	Dine Ag Inc	Shiprock Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Restoration

CFRP 20-08	Cibola	Alamo Navajo School Board	Alamo Community Capacity Building through Collaborative Forest Restoration
CFRP 23-08	Cibola	Mexicano Land Education	New Mexico Community Land Grant Planning & Preparation for Community Forest Restoration Pilot Project
CFRP 25-08	Gila	Gila Tree Thinners	Burro Mountain Homestead Restoration Project
CFRP 27-08	Gila	Santa Clara Woodworks	Acquiring and Processing Piñon Pine into Value Added Products
CFRP 05-09	Cibola	Pueblo of Santa Ana	Bosque Community Planting Using Small Diameter Woody Biomass at the Pueblo of Santa Ana
CFRP 23-09	Gila	Gila Woodnet	Forest Restoration Thinning on Signal Peak North Project
CFRP 29-09	Gila	K & B Timberworks	K&B Expansion Project at Reserve Sawmill
CFRP 06-10	Carson	HR Vigil	Forest Restoration and Capacity Building in Black Lake, New Mexico

APPENDIX D



Forest Service Southwestern Region (R3), Regional Forester's Office, Cooperative and International Forestry Staff

CHARTER

1. Committee's Official Designation

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel (the Panel)

2. Authority

The Panel is established consistent with the Community Forest Restoration Act (Pub. L. No.106-393, Title VI, Section 606) (the Act) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App.II.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The purpose of the Panel is to evaluate proposals for forest restoration grants and provide recommendations to the Secretary about the proposals that best meet the objectives of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP).

4. Description of Duties

The Panel shall provide recommendations to Secretary, through the Forest Service, Southwestern Regional Forester, on a schedule to be established by the Panel Chair. The Panel's recommendations shall consider the proposed projects' effects on long-term management and provide recommendations regarding which proposals best meet the following objectives pursuant to Section 605 of the Act: (1) Reduce the threat of large, high-intensity wildfires and the negative effects of excessive competition between trees by restoring ecosystem functions, structures, and species composition, including the reduction of nonnative species populations; (2) Reestablish fire regimes approximating those that shaped forest ecosystems prior to fire suppression; (3) Preserve old and large trees; (4) Replant trees in deforested areas if they exist in the proposed project area; (5) Improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees; (6) Comply with all Federal and State environmental laws; (7) Include a diverse and balanced group

of stakeholders as well as appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, county, and municipal government representatives in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project; (8) Incorporate current scientific forest restoration information; (9) Include a multiparty assessment to (a) identify both the existing ecological condition of the proposed project area and the desired future condition and (b) report, upon project completion, on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of the project including improvements in local management skills and on-the-ground results; (10) Create local employment or training opportunities within the context of accomplishing restoration objectives including summer youth jobs programs, such as the Youth Conservation Corps, where appropriate; (11) Not exceed 4 years in length; (12) Not exceed a total annual cost of \$150,000 per project, with the Federal portion not exceeding \$120,000 annually per project nor exceed a total cost of \$450,000 for each project, with the Federal portion of the total cost not exceeding \$360,000 per project; (13) Leverage Federal funding through in-kind or matching contributions; and (14) Include an agreement by program grantees to attend an annual workshop with other stakeholders for the purpose of discussing the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program and projects implemented under the program. In developing their recommendations, the Panel shall seek to use a consensus-based decision-making process. Consistent with applicable laws and Departmental regulations, the Panel may adopt such by-laws or rules of operation, as it deems advisable.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Panel will report to the Secretary of Agriculture through the Regional Forester of the Southwestern Region. The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint the panel members.

6. Support

Clerical and other administrative support for the Panel will be provided by the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Regional Office.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years

Estimated annual operating costs of the Panel are \$90,000. Federal staff support is estimated at 0.5 full-time equivalents, per year, including direct and indirect expenses. Panel expenses will be covered through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

Members of the Panel serve without compensation. In the performance of their duties away from their homes or regular places of business, Panel members may be allowed reimbursement for travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703. All Panel expenses will be subject to approval of the Designated Federal Officer.

8. Designated Federal Officer

A permanent Federal employee is to be appointed in accordance with agency procedures and will serve as the Designated Federal Official (DFO). The DFO will approve the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Panel will meet approximately one or two times a year, or as often as is necessary to complete its business. A majority of the Panel members must be present to constitute an official meeting. The Panel shall not hold any meetings except at the call of, or with the advance approval of, the DFO. Notice of each meeting shall be provided in the Federal Register and in major New Mexico newspapers at least 15 days before each meeting. Panel members will be notified personally of the date, time, and place of each meeting. All meetings will be open to the public, and all proceedings and relevant documents will be posted and made accessible to the public.

10. Duration

Continuing

11. Termination

This charter will be in effect for 2 years from the filing date and will be renewed every two years. However the Panel will be evaluated annually for its effective use and control by the Agency.

12. Membership and Designation

12a. This Committee will be fairly balanced in its membership in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. To encourage fresh points of view, establishing staggered membership terms and limiting the number of renewed memberships will be accomplished.

12b. The Panel will consist of 12 to 15 members approved and appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and representing the following interests: (1) A State natural resources official from the State of New Mexico; (2) At least two representatives from Federal land management agencies; (3) At least

one tribal or pueblo representative; (4) At least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration; and (5) Equal representation from - (a) Conservation interests, (b) Local communities, and (c) Commodity interests. Each Panel member shall serve as a representative of one of the interest groups described in Section 606 (b) of the Act. Vacancies on the Panel will be filled in the manner in which the original appointments were made. Appointments to vacant or expiring positions will be made annually. The terms of appointment will be staggered to assure continuity.

12c. Of these members, one will become the chairperson who is recognized for his or her ability to lead a group in a fair and focused manner and who has been briefed on the mission of this Committee. A co-chairperson may be assigned, especially to facilitate his or her transition to become the chairperson in the future.

12d. Ethics Statement

To maintain the highest levels of honesty, integrity and ethical conduct, no Committee or subcommittee member shall participate in any “specific party matters” (i.e., matters are narrowly focused and typically involve specific transactions between identified parties) such as a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, grant, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct or indirect financial interest. This includes the requirement for Committee or Subcommittee members to immediately disclose to the DFO (for discussion with USDA’s Office of Ethics) any specific party matter in which the member’s immediate family, relatives, business partners or employer would be directly seeking to financially benefit from the Committee’s recommendations. Members of the Committee shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims grants, or agreements that involve lands or resources administered by the Forest Service, or in any litigation related thereto. For purposes of this paragraph, indirect interest includes holdings of a spouse or a dependent child.

All members will receive ethics training to identify and avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Committee’s advice and recommendations. Members who are appointed as “Representatives” are not subject to Federal ethics laws because such appointment allows them to represent the point(s) of view of a particular group, business sector or segment of the public.

Members appointed as “Special Government Employees” (SGEs) are considered intermittent Federal employees and are subject to Federal ethics laws. SGE’s are appointed due to their personal knowledge, academic scholarship, background or expertise. No SGE may participate in any activity in which the member has a

prohibited financial interest. Appointees who are SGEs are required to complete and submit a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE-450 form) and, upon request, USDA will assist SGEs in preparing these financial reports. To ensure the highest level of compliance with applicable ethical standards USDA will provide ethics training to SGEs on an annual basis. The provisions of these paragraphs are not meant to exhaustively cover all Federal ethics laws and do not affect any other statutory or regulatory obligations to which advisory committee members are subject.

13. Subcommittees

The Forest Service has the authority to create subcommittees. Subcommittees must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The CFRP Technical Advisory Panel Subcommittee for the Review of CFRP Multi-Party Assessment Reports from Completed Projects meets every other year and reports back to the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel.

14. Recordkeeping

The records of this Committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. Information about this Committee is available online at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp>

15. Filing Date

March 24, 2014

Bylaws
Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
Technical Advisory Panel

April 22, 2013

Section I: Purpose:

The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel (Panel) is to evaluate proposals for forest restoration grants and provide recommendations on funding. Recommendations will be presented to the Secretary of Agriculture through the USDA Forest Service.

Section II: Authority:

The Secretary of Agriculture established the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel as a Federal Advisory Committee on July 12, 2001 pursuant to Section 606 of the Community Forest Restoration Act Of 2000 (Pub. L. No. 106-393) (the Act), which directs the Secretary to convene a technical advisory panel to evaluate proposals that will receive funding through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. The Panel is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the Government in the Sunshine Act (GISA).

Section III: Membership Selection and Appointment:

The Secretary of Agriculture, or his delegate acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, will appoint Panel members. The 12-15 member panel, as outlined in Section 606 of the Act, includes: a State Natural Resources official from the State of New Mexico; At least two representatives from Federal land management agencies; at least one tribal or pueblo representative; at least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration; and equal representation from: conservation interests; local communities; and commodity interests.

Members of the Panel shall be appointed for terms of 2 or 3 years, but may be reappointed. A vacancy on the Panel will be filled from the list of applicants who responded to the original solicitation for applications. A list of qualified applicants who passed the required background clearance check will be kept on file for this purpose. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his/her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. A replacement shall fill the vacancy as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs.

At the end of each 2-year or 3-year term, the Secretary of Agriculture will solicit applications for new membership on the panel. Notices will be sent to tribal, county and local governments, conservation organizations, and appropriate Colleges and Universities. A notice describing the purpose of the Panel and the application procedure will be published in local newspapers and a news release will be sent to television stations, radio stations, and their local translators in New Mexico soliciting nominations for Panel membership. Letters will also be mailed to individuals who have expressed an interest in the program or are involved in the forest restoration issue in New Mexico. Information on the Act and how to

submit an application for membership on the Panel will also be posted on the Forest Service Southwest Regional Internet Website at: www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/community.

The Secretary of Agriculture, in selecting Panel members, shall seek to ensure the membership of the Panel is balanced and represents and includes a broad range of diverse views and interests. Additional criteria for selection will include but not be limited to: long-time familiarity with forest management issues in New Mexico; past experience working with the government planning process; knowledge and understanding of the various cultures and communities in New Mexico; ability to actively participate in diverse team settings; demonstrated skill in working toward mutually beneficial solutions to complex issues; respect and credibility in local communities; and commitment to attending panel meetings.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint a Designated Federal Official (DFO) under sections 10 (e) and (f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., who shall also serve as the Chairman of the Panel.

Section IV: Meeting Procedures:

The panel will provide an environment where interest groups that have a stake in forest management issues can work towards agreement on how forest restoration should occur on public land in New Mexico with the grant proposals as the focus of the discussion.

The panel makes recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on which grant proposals best meet the objectives of the Act. The Panel will meet as often as is necessary to complete its business. The DFO (or a designated substitute) will convene Panel meetings. A majority of the Panel members must be present to constitute an official meeting of the Panel.

A. Agenda:

The DFO/Chairman will approve the proposed agenda for each meeting and distributed it to panel members prior to each meeting. An outline of the agenda will be published with a notice of the meeting in the Federal Register at least 15 days prior to the meeting. CFRP project proposals will be distributed to panel members for review at least six weeks prior to the panel meeting. Any member of the panel may submit additional agenda items to the DFO prior to the meeting if they are related to proposal evaluation. Members of the public may submit items for consideration that are related to proposal evaluation by sending them to the DFO prior to the meeting.

B. Minutes and Records:

The DFO will prepare minutes of each meeting and distribute copies to each Panel member. The minutes will include: a record of the persons present (including the names of panel members, names of staff, and the names of members of the public who made written or oral presentations); a description of the matters discussed and conclusions reached; and copies of all reports received, issued or approved by the Panel. All documents, reports, or other materials prepared by, or for, the Panel constitute official government records and must be maintained according the Government Services Administration (GSA) policies and procedures. Minutes of open meetings will be available to the public upon request.

C. Open Meetings:

The meeting is open to the public. Panel discussion is limited to Panel members and Forest Service staff. Project proponents may respond to questions of clarification from Panel members or Forest Service staff. Persons who wish to bring Collaborative Forest Restoration Program grant application review matters to the attention of the Panel may

file written statements with the Panel staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who submitted written statements prior to the public input sessions will have the opportunity to address the Panel at those sessions. Oral comment shall be limited to 3 minutes. All materials brought before or presented to the Panel will be available to the public for review or copying at the time of the scheduled meeting.

The panel will not consider new information that was required by the RFA if it constitutes a substantial change to the original proposal. The panel may consider information provided in response to a request for clarification or if it is a factual correction.

Section V: Role of Panel Members:

A. Designated Federal Official (DFO) or his delegate:

The DFO will establish priorities, identify issues that must be addressed, and assure compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Community Forest Restoration Act. The DFO also serves as the government's agent for all matters related to the panel's activities. By Law, the DFO must: (1) approve or call the meeting of the Panel; (2) approve agendas; (3) attend all meetings; (4) adjourn the meetings when such adjournment is in the public interest; and (5) chair meetings when directed by the Regional Forester or his/her designee. The DFO is responsible for determining the level and types of staff and financial support required and providing adequate staff support to the Panel, including the performance of the following functions: (a) Notifying members of the time and place for each meeting; (b) ensuring that adequate facilities are provided for meetings; (c) ensuring detailed minutes are taken at the meeting and maintaining records of all meetings, including subgroup or working group activities, as required by Law; (d) maintaining the roll including subgroup and working group activities; (e) attending to official correspondence; (f) maintaining official Panel records and filing all papers and submissions prepared for or by the Panel, including those items generated by subgroups and working groups; (g) acting as the Panel's agent to collect, validate and pay all vouchers for pre-approved expenditures; and (h) preparing and handling all reports, including the annual report as required under FACA.

B. Chairperson:

The Chairperson works with the DFO to establish priorities, identify issues which must be addressed, develop the agenda, determine the level and types of staff and financial support required, and serves as the focal point for the Panel's membership. The Chairman works with the meeting facilitator to assure that each member of the Panel has an opportunity to express their views. In addition, the Chairperson is responsible for certifying the accuracy of the Panel Report and the Meeting Minutes developed by the Panel to document its meetings. The DFO may also serve as the Chairperson.

C. Panel Member:

Appointment to the Panel does not make a Panel member an employee of the federal government. The primary responsibility of each Panel member is to review and evaluate each CFRP project proposal to determine which ones best meet the purposes and objectives of the Act. Panel members shall attend Panel meetings, and participate in related workgroups as determined necessary by the Panel and approved by the DFO. Panel members may contact project proponents to clarify specific aspects of a proposal and seek input from other sources familiar with the technical and social aspects of the intended activity.

If a Panel Member or any member of their immediate family, or organization employing them, will directly or indirectly financially benefit from a CFRP grant proposal being evaluated, or if a Panel Member has an identified role in the implementation of the project, that Panel member shall leave the meeting room during the discussion of that proposal and recuse themselves from the Panel's decision to avoid a conflict of interest. Panel members may answer questions from grant applicants regarding the eligibility and appropriateness of project proposal ideas and still engage in the discussion and decision on a proposal.

During Panel discussions, each member of the Panel shall take the concerns of other Panel members as seriously as they do their own regarding the contribution individual project proposals make towards forest restoration in New Mexico. Panel members are encouraged to support the recommendations of the Panel in their workplaces and in other groups concerned with forest restoration in New Mexico.

D. Recorder:

The recorder shall capture issues raised and consensus recommendations of the Panel for each CFRP project proposal and for items of general discussion. The recorder shall take direction from the Chairman on final wording for consensus recommendations, and work with Panel members to assure that issues are captured accurately in the record of the meeting.

Section VI: Process for Developing Recommendations

By law, the Panel must seek to use a consensus based decision-making process in developing their recommendations. If the Panel does not reach agreement through discussion, they may use a weighted ranking system to identify the highest priority projects. The Secretary of Agriculture will make the final decision on which proposals receive funding.

Section VI: Expenses and Reimbursement

Members of the Panel serve without compensation. Reimbursement for travel expenses will be made in accordance with Federal per diem rates for attendance at meetings. Panel members should request authorization from the DFO prior to incurring any expenses associated with collecting input on project proposals including but not limited to photocopies, postage, and telephone calls. All expenses will be subject to approval of the DFO. Advisory Panel Expenses will be covered through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

APPENDIX E

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program 2014 Technical Advisory Panel Members

<u><i>Interest</i></u>	<u><i>Name, Organization</i></u>
State Natural Resources Official	Nina Wells, NMED-Surface Water Quality Bureau
Federal Land Management Agency	Kenneth Jaramillo, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
Federal Land Management Agency	Jennifer Jo Hensiek, USDA Forest Service
Federal Land Management Agency	Jeremy Kruger, Bureau of Land Management
Tribal	Alan Hatch, Pueblo of Santa Ana
Independent Scientist	Amy Waltz, PhD, Ecological Restoration Institute, Northern Arizona University
Independent Scientist	Ching-Hsun Huang, PhD, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University
Conservation	Bryan Bird, Wild Earth Guardians
Conservation	Tom Jervis, Audubon New Mexico
Local Community	John Sanchez, New Mexico Land Grant Council
Local Community	Krystyn Nystrom, Santa Fe County Fire Department
Commodity	Sara Kuykendall, Kuykendall and Sons Lumber
Commodity	Shiloh Old, Old Wood, LLC
Designated Federal Officer	Walter Dunn, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region

APPENDIX F

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Technical Advisory Panel Meeting, April 7-11, 2014 Purpose, Desired Outcomes and Agenda

Meeting Purposes:

- Use a consensus based process to develop recommendations for the Secretary of Agriculture on which CFRP grant applications best meet the program objectives.
- Assign tasks to the CFRP Sub Committee for the review of completed projects.
- Create an environment in which interest groups that have a stake in the management of public forestland in New Mexico can build agreement on how forest restoration should occur on those lands.

Desired Outcomes:

- A recommendation for the Secretary of Agriculture on which CFRP grant applications best meet the program objectives.
- A report including:
 - Recommended funding levels for each grant application;
 - Scores for each application indicating the degree to which it met the CFRP evaluation criteria;
 - Recommendations for improving individual grant applications where appropriate;
 - Recommendations for improving the CFRP Request for Applications and application review process; and
 - Tasks for the CFRP Sub Committee for the review of CFRP multi-party assessment reports.

Time: April 7-11, 2014, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 7, and ending at approximately 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 11.

Place: Hyatt Place Albuquerque Uptown, 6901 Arvada Avenue, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, (505) 872-9000.

Designated Federal Official: Walter Dunn

Facilitator: Rosemary Romero

Panel Staff and Recorders: Alicia San Gil, Christy Wampler

Walter Dunn,
Assistant Designated Federal Official
USDA Forest Service Southwest Region
Cooperative and International Forestry
Tel: (505) 842-3425
wdunn@fs.fed.us

Alicia San Gil
USDA Forest Service
Southwestern Region
Cooperative and International Forestry
Tel: (505) 842-3289
agsangil@fs.fed.us

Application Review Process

The Panel will take approximately 30 minutes to review each application. The review will include:

1. A presentation by an assigned Panel member summarizing the background, objectives, partners, and budget for the application.
2. The identification of and a negotiated agreement on strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for the application.
3. A review of performance and/or multiparty monitoring reports from previous grant(s) if applicable.
4. Scoring of the application by CFRP Panel members.

After all the applications have been discussed the Panel will review their recommendations and scores for consistency and make corrections if necessary. The Panel will then develop three tables (utilization, planning, and implementation) to display the evaluation criteria scores for the applications in each category. The Panel will then evaluate and score each applications effect on long term management. Funding recommendations will be based on the rankings of the applications in each category. The Panel will identify up to two Utilization applications and up to four Planning applications for funding. The remainder of the applications recommended for funding will be for on the ground implementation.

Agenda Monday, April 7, 2014

When	What	Who
10:00 AM	Welcome and Introductions	Walter Dunn, DFO
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Meeting Logistics	Facilitator
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Review of Purposes, Desired Outcomes, and Agenda and Presentations of Certifications to Panel Members.	Facilitator and Walter Dunn
10:45 – 11:00 AM	What It Means To Be A Federal Advisory Committee	Walter Dunn
11:00 – 11:30 AM	CFRP update	Walter Dunn
11:30 – 12:15 noon	Review Panel Bylaws	Walter Dunn
12:15 – 1:30 PM	LUNCH	
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Review Sub-Committee Report	Chair & Panel
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Review Application Evaluation and Panel Discussion Process	Chair & Panel
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Public Comment Period	Members of the Public who submitted written comment by March 28.
4:00 – 4:15 PM	BREAK	Panel
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Review application: CFRP 01-14	Panel
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Review application: CFRP 02-14.	Panel
5:30 – 5:45 PM	Review of Day's Work and Agenda for Tuesday, Day Two	Facilitator
5:45 PM	Adjourn	

Agenda Tuesday, April 8, 2014

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Review Agenda for the Day	Facilitator
8:45 – 10:15 AM	Review applications: 03-14 and 04-14	Panel Members
10:15 – 10:30 AM	BREAK	
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Review applications: CFRP 05-14(U) and 06-14(U).	Panel Members
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Public Comment Period	Members of the Public who submitted written comment
11:45 – 1:15 PM	LUNCH	
1:15 – 3:15 PM	Review applications: CFRP 07-14, 08-14, 9-14, and 10-14	Panel Members
3:15 – 3:30 PM	BREAK	
3:30– 5:30 PM	Review applications CFRP 11-14, 12-14, 13-14, and <u>15-14 (Out of Sequence).</u>	Panel Members
5:30 – 5:45 PM	Public Comment Period	Members of the Public who submitted written comment
5:45 - 6:00 PM	Review of the Day's work and Agenda for Wednesday, Day 3	Facilitator
6:00 PM	Adjourn	

Agenda Wednesday, April 9, 2014

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>
8:30 - 8:45 AM	Review Agenda for the Day	Facilitator
8:45 – 10:45 AM	Review applications: CFRP, <u>14-14</u> (<i>out of sequence</i>), 16-14, 17-14 and 18-14.	Panel Members
10:45 – 11:00 AM	BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Review application CFRP 19-14.	Panel Members
11:30 – 11:45 AM	Public Comment Period	Members of the Public who submitted written comment
11:45 – 1:15 PM	LUNCH	
1:15 – 3:45 PM	Review applications: CFRP 20-14, 21-14, 22-14, 23-14, and 24-14.	Panel Members
3:45 – 4:00 PM	BREAK	
4:00 – 5:45 PM	Review applications: CFRP 25-14, and 26-14.	Panel Members
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Public Comment Period	Members of the Public who submitted written comment
6:00 - 6:15 PM	Review of the Day's work and Agenda for Thursday, Day 4	Facilitator
6:15 PM	Adjourn	

Agenda Thursday, April 10, 2014

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>
8:30 - 8:45 AM	Review Agenda for the Day	Facilitator
8:45 – 10:15 AM	Discuss and Agree on Consistency Review Process	Facilitator and Panel Members
10:15 – 10:30 AM	BREAK	
10:30 – 11:45 AM	Consistency Review	Panel Members
11:45 – 12:00 PM	Public Comment Period	Members of the Public who submitted written comment
12:00 – 1:15 PM	LUNCH	
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Consistency Review	Panel Members
2:15 – 2:30 PM	BREAK	Panel Members
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Consistency Review	Panel Members
3:30 – 4:45 PM	Develop Criteria for Evaluating Effect on Long Term Management	Panel Members
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Public Comment Period	Members of the Public who submitted written comment
5:00 – 5:15 PM	Review of Agenda for Friday, Day 5	Facilitator
5:15 PM	Adjourn	

Agenda Friday, April 11, 2014

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>
8:30 - 8:45 AM	Review Agenda for the Day	Facilitator
8:45 – 10:00 AM	Review Application Scores by Category	Panel Members
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Score Applications for their Effect on Long Term Management	Panel Members
10:30 – 11:30 AM	BREAK (Forest Service Compiles Scores)	
11:30 - 12:00 AM	Develop agreement on a prioritized list of recommended projects within each category of applications (planning, utilization, implementation)	Panel Members
12:00 – 12:15 PM	Public Comment	Members of the Public who submitted written comment
12:15 – 1:30 PM	LUNCH	
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Review of Application Evaluation Process To Identify Areas For Improvement.	All Panel Members
2:00 – 2:30 PM	Review 2014 Request for Applications to Identify areas for improvement	
2:30 – 2:45 PM	BREAK	
2:45 – 3:15 PM	Assign tasks to the CFRP Sub Committee for the Review of Final Project Reports and identify Panel members who will serve on the Sub Committee.	Facilitator and Walter Dunn
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Public Comment	
3:30 – 3:45	Closing Remarks	Walter Dunn, and Panel Members
3:45 PM	Adjourn	

APPENDIX G
PUBLIC COMMENT

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 01-14

John Celley addressed the panel during the public comment period held during the meeting on April 7, 2014 at 3:00 pm.

Email from John Celley dated March 4, 2014:

Mr. Dunn,

I am the Project Manager for the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's 2014 CFRP Application. We understand that there is an issue with our application packet regarding one of our management team members, Judy Piper. I have attached a signed letter from myself and Gus Holm, the President of the CWA, which explains our position on this matter. The original is in the mail, and you should receive it this week.

I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused you, and I appreciate your consideration of our application. Please contact me if I can be of any more assistance.

Sincerely,

John Celley

Recreation Resource Manager
Philmont Conservation Department
john.celley@scouting.org
(575) 376-2281 x1251 office
(208) 651-6417 cell

Public Comment
2014 CFRP Technical Advisory Panel



301 9th Street, PO Box 626, Cimarron, NM 87714

February 27, 2014

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Walter Dunn, 2014 CFRP Applications
Room 329
333 Broadway Blvd., SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

RE: 2014 Cimarron Watershed Alliance CFRP Application

Dear Mr. Dunn:

It has come to our attention that several 2014 CFRP applications, including ours, were found to be insufficient during administrative review. We understand that our deficiency is a missing letter of commitment from our Project Accountant, Judy Piper.

This discrepancy is the result of our misinterpretation of the 2014 Request for Applications (RFA). Mrs. Piper is a current member of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance (CWA), and we consider her a fellow applicant. Her business, Piper Bookkeeping, is included in the project partner list to emphasize the special knowledge and skills that she brings to our organization. Our intention was to clarify, not confuse, her role in the project.

Mrs. Piper currently provides general accounting and tax preparation support for the CWA. She has previously served the CWA as a board member and treasurer. We consider her contribution to our proposed CFRP project to be an expansion of the role she already holds in our organization. Her familiarity with our finances and her understanding of the billing and reporting procedures required for this project make her an important part of our project management team. The fact that she has volunteered to donate the majority of her time as matching funds makes her presence on our team a tremendous value for us and the USFS.

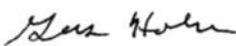
During the preparation of our application, Mrs. Piper participated in discussions regarding her role in the implementation of this project and provided us with a list of her relevant qualifications. We included this information in Appendix B of our application, as required by the 2014 RFA. This approach was sufficient to meet CFRP application requirements in 2011 and 2012, when Mrs. Piper was also designated as our Project Accountant.

We firmly believe that our application is complete as it was submitted. We also believe that our project, and the group of partners we have assembled, is perfectly aligned with the purposes and intentions of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. The CWA has a reputation for successfully completing grant-funded projects on time and within budget. Our members, including Judy Piper, are fully committed to the success of all of our undertakings.

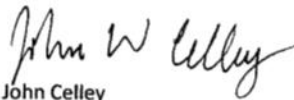
We propose that we be given the chance to defend our application and our organization in front of the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel. Our Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager will prepare a brief, oral presentation of our position and deliver it on behalf of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance at a time and place of your choosing.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. We realize that this is an unusual situation, and we value the opportunity to be considered for CFRP funding. As a measure of good faith, we have enclosed Mrs. Piper's letter of commitment. We look forward to hearing from you and resolving this issue.

Sincerely,



Gus Holm
President



John Celley
CFRP Project Manager

Encl: Letter of Commitment, Judy Piper

CC: Jerry Mastel, District Ranger, Questa Ranger District, Carson National Forest
Raul Hurtado, Partnership Coordinator, Carson National Forest

PIPER BOOKKEEPING
Judy Piper, Accountant
PO Box 555
Angel Fire, NM 87710
(505)377-1504/377-1253 FAX

February 28, 2014

Mr. John Celley
Philmont Scout Ranch
17 Deer Run
Cimarron, NM 87714

RE: Letter of Commitment: "Collaborative Restoration of Frequent Fire Ecosystems in the Ponil Creek Watershed"

Dear Mr. Celley:

I am pleased to support your application for funding from the "Collaborative Restoration Program(CFRP) to support the project "Collaborative Restoration of Frequent Fire Ecosystems in the Ponil Creek Watershed." As a long time member of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, I am proud to contribute my services toward this beneficial, community driven project

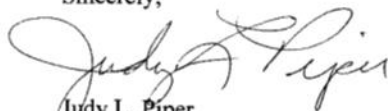
As a land owner in Colfax County, I know firsthand the challenges facing the forests of New Mexico. My concern for the health of our local forests and streams is what prompted me to become involved with the CWA years ago. Landscape scale forest restoration projects have always been a goal of our organization, and this project will provide us with the opportunity to implement those projects in an area of prime importance to our local stakeholders.

As an experienced accountant, I have prepared taxes and provided general accounting services to the CWA for years. I would be honored to serve as Project Accountant for the life of this CFRP planning project. I have provided a list of my qualifications for you to include in your application.

In order to ensure that our billing and financial reporting meets the requirements of CFRP, I am committing 144 hours of my time, billed at \$50.00 per hour, over the three years of this project. I will donate 84 of those hours (\$4,200) as non-federal match and receive payment for the remaining 60 hours (\$3,000) from CFRP funds.

Thank you for taking the initiative to submit this application for CFRP funding. I look forward to working with you and all the partners as this project progresses.

Sincerely,


Judy L. Piper
Accountant

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 11-14 Rev.

Email from Gordon West dated March 5, 2014:

Hi Walter,

Julia Faith just informed me that the Federal Register calls for a submission of comments to be included on the agenda to be done by March 28. So here I am.

I was informed that my appendix page count was 51, though my computer tells me it's 47. I have no idea how your folks get 51. Perhaps something extra got printed because of a format change between computer software?

In any case, I think it is sad that CFRP has become so anally focused on petty clerical details, and so distracted from evaluating for the best projects that further the purposes of the program. On the subject of the technical details, it seems unfair to require resubmissions to use up limited pages when new proposals don't have to, and also that some required documentation, like NEPA, are not under the control of the proponent. My Zerosion proposal used up seven pages in the appendix for those two requirements,

Please consider these comments and submit them to the TAP.

Thanks,

Gordon West
Restoration Technologies
503 N. "E" Street
Silver City, NM 88061
575-537-3689

Letter from Gordon West dated April 9, 2014:

(The following public comment was read into the record and distributed to Panel members during the Panel meeting public comment period on April 9, 2014 at 11:45 am.)

Public Comment on CFRP 11-14; Restoration Technologies Zerosion Project
Submitted April 9, 2014 by:
Gordon West
503 N. E Street
Silver City, NM 88061
gordon.west@rtnewmexico.com
575-537-3689

Dear TAP Members,

Several of the comments regarding the Zerosion proposal I find to be confusing and

disconcerting, and it seems that our proposal is being held to a set of unique and contradictory standards.

The first is that one review panel member, Mr. Shiloh Old, stated firmly that he believes that Zerosion is perhaps the best product to ever appear in the world of forest restoration - in fact, it is so good that it should not be funded by CFRP, ostensibly because it would be easy to obtain lots of private funding to commercialize it, in his opinion.

Restoration Technologies has pursued private funding and the investors have not been found to be waiting outside with checkbooks at the ready. The reason for this has to do with a deliberate choice to design Zerosion primarily as a solution for a difficult issue in the world of forest restoration - what to do with the low value biomass? - and only secondarily as a pathway to business profit. It is a consciously developed triple-bottom-line business opportunity (means it values social, environmental, and economic benefits together), and it is the desire of RT to share the “solution” through technology transfer to widely distributed communities that need a higher value use for low value biomass. Traditional venture capital is not attracted to triple bottom-line opportunities because the focus is not simply on maximizing profits. RT members have invested approximately \$250,000 in personal support over the eight year development period.

In addition, the use of Zerosion is directly connected to benefitting the environment through watershed improvements, which in turn foster other indirect economic benefits through the still difficult to quantify *ecosystem services* effects. It is my opinion that the Zerosion proposal is a very good investment for the Federal government to make because it promises significant benefits in solving the “what to do with low-value biomass” dilemma faced by all forest restoration practitioners, and it does it through addressing other social, environmental, and economic problems.

It is strange, when compared to the other utilization proposals submitted in 2014, that none of the other projects (which are all heavily focused on the acquisition of equipment for the primary purpose of increasing the efficiency and improving the profitability of private businesses) were questioned as to whether it is appropriate to support their operations with CFRP funding, or should they go out and get private funding? The logic seems to be that all of the other utilization proposals deserve CFRP funding because they are not good enough business ventures to be privately capitalized, while the Zerosion proposal is so good that it does not need CFRP support - even though the others are not focused on low-value biomass problem solving, or technology distribution to other communities in need, or providing end use social and environmental benefits. The logic there is quite contorted and does not align with the idea that funding should go to the projects that best address the purposes and objectives of the Act.

Continuing Mr. Old’s confusing and conflicting comments is that he also asserted, since RT has resubmitted versions of the Zerosion proposal numerous times, that it has clearly demonstrated itself to be unworthy of CFRP support due to unspecified weaknesses, and that we keep submitting the same unchanged and insufficient proposal. The history of RT’s multiple submissions is this: one year the proposal was not assigned any weaknesses or recommendations, and the discussion was vigorous and very supportive, and yet the proposal was not funded. The TAP gave RT absolutely no feedback as to why funding was not granted. Another year, a letter was left out and the proposal was not reviewed, so no feedback once

again. Another year, FS staff made a spontaneous and unsupported claim that there were disallowed costs in the budget, which terminated the review. The claim of disallowed costs was later shown to be incorrect. Last year, the only discussion presented in the meeting minutes that could be addressed had to do with Mr. Old speculating that RT did not have the capability of bringing Zerosion up to a commercial scale, which therefor became a main focus of re-writing this year's resubmission - and Mr. Old seemed to enthusiastically agree that we are clearly capable now of taking Zerosion the next level, saying that it has huge potential. Zerosion has been evolving, albeit slowly, as a result of RT's bootstrapping efforts, and every time the proposal has actually been reviewed we have addressed the concerns and more. The remark that we are submitting the same flawed project proposal over and over again is cavalier and unsupported.

I feel compelled to point out that Mr. Old has an obvious conflict of interest this year in that his company has a utilization proposal in the running that is in direct competition with our proposal, and this fact may account for his statements of double standards and the creation of odd conditions for Zerosion to meet, unrelated to the official selection criteria - namely that Zerosion is too good to fund with CFRP, and that resubmission is somehow proof of weakness.

Another issue is Mr. Old's vague discomfort with the fact that this proposal budgets a significant amount of money for equipment fabrication. Once again, a double standard is being applied, since all of the other utilization proposals have much larger budgets for equipment than RT's, the only difference being that they are purchasing all of their equipment from somewhere else. There are two main reasons that RT (and associated companies) are budgeting for fabrication: one is that no one manufactures the Zerosion application system, so there is nowhere to buy an assembled system (we have already purchased the major equipment components, with private funding I would add); the second is that we have the capability to fabricate equipment at a professional level, which apparently none of the other proponents have. The unclarified issue seems to be that I am not donating my fabrication shop time as match (the proposal does meet the 20% match requirement, so more match is not possible). But I have to make a living somehow (I can't afford to work on equipment for four months with no income), and none of the other equipment manufacturers are donating their fabrication time as match. Yet CFRP funding will be used to pay for the fabrication of equipment purchased with CFRP funds in the other proposals. At least our fabrication expense stays in the local community, adding to the economy, and creating local jobs. Further, when the commercialization of the Zerosion system is finally perking along, we will have another New Mexico business of fabricating more Zerosion systems for distribution to other communities. This vaguely presented weakness is actually the indication of another rather significant strength.

Also needing to be addressed is Mr. Old's assertion that the Unimog truck owned by the Trollworks (formerly Santa Clara Woodworks) is a bad choice for use in our application. I do not know why he believes this, unless the Unimog that he owns is a junker and is unreliable. The truck we plan to use was designed and built by Mercedes Benz as an industrial/agricultural truck-tractor platform for a wide variety of uses. I imported this particular truck from Germany in 1998 and have been using it for a number of different purposes ever since (it currently sports a crane and dump bed platform that can be removed and replaced by the Zerosion platform in a matter of hours). I did research buying or leasing a different truck, mostly for the purpose of establishing a basis for the lease rate in the budget. I *did not* find a truck for lease that has the

necessary features (4wd, multiple shaft and hydraulic power take-off points) but I did receive a quote for a 2wd flatbed truck of sufficient size. The quote was \$96,000 per year to lease (\$8,000 per month), or \$160,000 to purchase. The lease price did not include insurance or fuel, and I would not have been allowed to modify any part of the truck. Leasing the more suitable Unimog truck for \$700 per month (including license, insurance, fuel, and other operational costs) is by far the more financially and functionally prudent choice.

One last issue was Ms. Kuykendal's concern that we will be acquiring all of our biomass feedstock from one source, namely Gila Wood Products. As I said during the review, the raw material will be sourced from every forest restoration operator within range, but GWP currently has the only large scale chipper with a screen. I submit to you that this situation is no different than a sawmill obtaining logs from multiple loggers but sawing it all with only their sawmill. What if something happens to the sawmill? The fact is, something often happens to equipment, and it is repaired, and work continues. In the event of some catastrophic loss of the GWP chipper, RT does own a smaller portable chipper with a screen and can easily process the amount of feedstock required to the purposes of this grant, if necessary. We would much prefer to exercise the existing collaborative feedstock supply relationships, however, and do not desire to compete with GWP by setting up another large scale chip line. A prior project reviewed got kudos for leveraging previously CFRP funded equipment, and our scenario is the same.

Thank you all for your time and effort in reviewing these proposals, I know it can be a grueling experience!

Sincerely,

Gordon West

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 13-14

Email from Suellen Strale dated March 11, 2014:

Greetings Walter,

Attached please find scanned, signed version of CCC's "Document for Public Comment" to be submitted in compliance with the Federal Register's call for "Submission of Comment" due before March 28, 2014.

I am requesting that you forward this to the Technical Advisory Panel in hopes that they will take these comments into consideration and review this important application.
Thank you for your support,

Suellen Strale
Executive Director/Founder
Chimayo Conservation Corps
P.O. Box 1027

Chimayo, NM 87522
Phone: 505.351.1456
Fax: 505.351.1556
Cell: 505.901.9898



CHIMAYO CONSERVATION CORPS

P.O. BOX 1027, CHIMAYO, N.M. 87522

(505) 351-1456 FAX (505) 351-1556

E-mail: cyc@newmexico.com

March 11, 2014

Walter Dunn,
Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Mr. Dunn,

Mr. Raul Hurtado, Partnership Coordinator, USDA Forest Service, Carson National Forest contacted Chimayo Conservation Corps (CCC) regarding a technical issue that may disqualify our CFRP-2014 Implementation Application. He stated that the required application narrative documents did not exceed the 12 page limit however, our appendices did exceed the 50 page limit. We have been directed by Mr. Hurtado to present to you CCC's "Public Comment" to be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Panel in hopes of resolving this issue in compliance with the Federal Register's call for "Submission of Comment" before March 28, 2014.

CCC's proposal to implement fuel reduction treatment on landscape-scale, multi-jurisdictional forests required a signed NEPA decision document for each of the proposed projects to be included in the application appendices. The Decision Memos for the USFS-"Francisco Project" and "El Pato Fuels Reduction"-Carson National Forest-Camino Real District; the NM State Land Office (SLO)-"Mesa de los Viejas Forest Restoration Project"; and the BLM-"Rio Grande Corridor at Buckman Restoration and Recreation Enhancement Project" documents were extensive and not in our control to amend. Moreover, submitting these documents in their entirety is vital to the integrity of each project being proposed for evaluation by the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel. All Letters of Endorsement, Commitment and Support from USFS, BLM and SLO, Sample Tribal Letter with list of contacted Tribes, Project Area Maps, and Key Personnel Qualifications submitted, are also required as appendices with no amendments.

Historically, CCC's participation in CFRP projects has allowed our organization to build capacity and establish strong collaborative partnerships with USFS, BLM, SLO, Rio Arriba County, NM Workforce Connection, Northern Area Workforce Development Board, Forest Guild, NM Forest Industries Association, Wildland Fire Associates, Ecotone, and multiple conservation organizations, communities, stakeholders, and non-profit agencies statewide. Our organization's successful establishment of collaborating partnerships across multi-jurisdictions accomplishes the objectives of the CFRP design.

CCC requests that the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel consider our position concerning this technical issue in order for our organization's application to be considered for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Shellen Strale
President / Executive Director
Chimayo Conservation Corps

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 17-14

Joe Gurule addressed the panel during the public comment period held during the meeting on April 8, 2014 at 5:55 pm.

Email from Joe Gurule dated March 20, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn,

The following correspondence serves to request from you and the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel (as per public comment allowed by statute and regulation affecting grant applications), that you consider the following when evaluating the 2014 CFRP Grant Application for Joe Gurule & Son;

Due to the ambiguous information given as to which section was given more leeway in terms of length, I am requesting that the NEPA Document not be counted in my appendices. Since I have no control of its length and it is a required document it should not be part of the appendices. This would allow my application to not exceed the 50 pages. In the last 3 years I have never gone over the required pages. However, as previously mentioned there was confusion this year on the amount of pages allowed.

Please let me know if you have further questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration into this matter.

Sincerely,
Joe.

Handwritten letter from Joe Gurule submitted on April 8, 2014:

To: Mr. Dunn
From: Joe Gurulé Jr.
Subject: Public Comment
Date: April 8, 2014

Please Consider my request to address the Panel as part of the public comment period, to address an error on my proposal this year. My proposal was "Implementation: Restoration & Educational Opportunities through thinning in the Aqua/Caballos_Revision"

Thank you for your Consideration.

Mr. Bird – Chairman, Mr. Dunn and Technical Advisory Panel Members:

I am Joe Gurule Jr. and I submitted the 2014 CFRP grant application for Joe Gurule & Son in the Aqua Caballos. I respectfully come before you requesting that this panel consider my appeal of not counting the NEPA Document as part of my appendices.

There was some ambiguity when I was given information as to which section of the application the NEPA Document would be counted on, Narrative or in the Executive Summary. Since I have no control of its length and it is a required Document. I would graciously appreciate it if it NOT be counted in the Appendices part. As this was always my intent. So in evaluating my application, please do NOT count the NEPA Document as part of my appendices. This would result in my appendices NOT being over the 50 page limit.

I have submitted applications before and hopefully this will be a successful attempt. However, as previously mentioned, there was some confusion this year as to which section would be allowed extra pages.

Thank you in advance for your consideration into this matter, and hopefully you can still recommend my proposal for funding

Joe Gurule

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 19-14

Herman Vigil and Rachel Wood addressed the panel during the public comment period held during the meeting on April 7, 2014 at 3:00 pm.

Letter dated 3/20/14:

Walter Dunn, CFRP Program Manager
Cooperative and International Forestry
USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Walter Dunn and the CFRP Panel,

The purpose of this letter is to address a technical error in the 2014 CFRP proposal titled: Vigil Small Products Sustainability and Expanded Forest Restoration at Black Lake submitted by Herman Vigil. It was pointed out by the Carson CFRP Coordinator that Santa Fe Eco Wood was listed as a project partner in the proposal's collaborator table, however, there was not a letter of commitment from them, which could result in the panel not evaluating the proposal. While we were planning to work with Santa Fe Eco Wood as a partner, we later determined, a few days before the proposal was due, that Santa Fe Eco Wood would not be a partner. We deleted and rewrote the proposal to leave out any mention of them in other parts of the proposal. Santa Fe Eco Wood does not play any role in the HR Vigil Small Products F+CFRP proposal. The fact that they are listed in the collaborator table is a typographical error. We respectfully ask that the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel excuse this error so the proposal can be evaluated and considered for potential funding.

Thank you for your consideration,

Herman Vigil, HR Small products
Rachel Wood, CFRP Grant Writer

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 21-14

Doug Booth, Lyra Barron and Joanne Sullivan addressed the panel during the public comment period held during the meeting on April 7, 2014 at 3:00 pm.

Dan and Marion Johnson addressed the panel during the public comment period held during the meeting on April 8, 2014 at 1:30pm.

Email from Scott Ernst dated March 13, 2014:

Hi Walter,

I am writing to express support for the thinning of "Block E" in La Cueva. As a resident of La Cueva for 17 years I have seen, first hand, how the thinning in the National Forest above Upper La Cueva has positively impacted the wildlife in the area as well as improving the visual quality of the thinned areas. The fire break created by this thinning will help multiple communities for years to come.

I believe that "Block E" will provide the community of La Cueva with all of the benefits that we have experienced from the earlier thinning above us while at the same time adding to our ability to escape the valley in a situation where we have a fire coming up from below. I know that there are limited resources available for this kind of work and that there is much need, but I hope you will consider La Cueva when distributing funds for thinning this year.

Thank you,

Scott Ernst
Scott@CustomFurniture.us
www.CustomFurniture.us
505.603.5659

Email from Doug Booth dated March 13, 2014:

Hello Mr Dunn,

Please note that Lyra Barron and Doug Booth would like to testify at the upcoming CFRP hearing regarding the grant application for thinning Block E in the La Cueva National Forest in Glorieta New Mexico.

Thank you,
Doug Booth

Email from Carol Parker dated March 15, 2014:

Mr Dunn,

We would like to register opposition to the proposed fire break along 63-A in La Cueva, Glorieta (Block E). The reasons are as follows:

1) DESTRUCTION OF A NATURAL AND BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT along 63-A. Many of us feel strongly that the forest along

County Road 63-A should be kept intact. It is a home for wildlife, and there are many beautiful old trees in Block E. It is a source of joy and health for all who live here, including the animals.

2) DISTURBANCE OF MOUNTAIN LION HABITAT: Block E is frequently traversed by at least one mountain lion. I have seen her and her cub in the section designated as "Block E", and my husband and I have followed fresh prints to a den closely adjacent to Block E. It is clear that the den is in current use, as evidenced by the vast number of prints in and out of the den, many of which are fresh. We should not disturb this area which is her home territory, and which she clearly uses frequently to track game.

3) DISTURBANCE OF THE HARMONY IN LA CUEVA COMMUNITY: This issue of creating a Fire Break has become a source of extreme stress for many residents of La Cueva community. At least two dozen people, to my knowledge, are AGAINST the clearing of Block E. Yet, it appears that a small number of people are attempting to push this proposal through. There is NO CONSENSUS in this community around the Block E fire break. ALL RESIDENTS should be polled in a democratic manner to determine what the community actually wants.

Carol L. Parker, Ph.D.
11C La Cueva Creek Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Frank Hadley Murphy
11C La Cueva Creek Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Email from Carol Johnson dated March 15, 2014:

I would like to testify at the upcoming CFRP Panel hearing April 7 - 11 regarding the Grant proposal for a Fuel Break in Block E of La Cueva, Glorieta, NM.

I am also submitting written comments which I ask you to share with the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel.

Thank you,

Carol J. Johnson
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

Email from Robert Schrei dated March 18, 2014:

Dear Walter,

I am writing to express my support for the grant for a fuel brake in La Cueva.

I and many others support this grant as written. It is a well thought out proposal and the majority of us in the community support its implementation as written.

There is a very vocal minority that are attempting to stop this proposal. Most of them are relatively new to this community. At last count it looked as if approximately 90% of the people that have been living in this valley 15 or more years support this project as written. I hope that the vocal minority of new comers to this valley do not obscure the fact that most of the long term residents of this valley support your efforts to help create a more fire wise community.

Thank you for your efforts and patience in taking the time to work through these issues with us.

Thank you for your good work and intentions.

I will not be able to be at the meeting and I am sure it will be mostly populated with the vocal minority. I hope that you do not hear that as our communal voice. The majority voice supports your good intentions and the project as proposed.

Sincerely

Robert Schrei,
40-A, Camino La Cueva
Glorieta, New Mexico
87535
rjschrei@cybermesa.com

Email from Sybil Naumer dated March 18, 2014:

Mr. Dunn,

I am strongly in favor of thinning Block E in La Cueva (Glorieta, NM) at Highway 50 and La Cueva Road. Thank you for your consideration for us who live in this valley.

Sincerely,

Sybil S. Naumer, Trustee
Helmuth J and Sybil S Naumer Trust
10 La Cueva Creek Road
Glorieta, NM 87535
505-757-2751

Email from Patricia Waldygo dated March 18, 2014:

Attention: Walter Dunn

Dear Mr. Dunn,

I am in favor of the tree thinning grant. Although I love the look of lush forests, I'm beginning to realize that with climate change, this area doesn't have enough moisture to support such dense growth and create

healthy trees, without fire danger. Also, the entrance to La Cueva Road (63A) at Route 50 is too narrow and overgrown in case of a fire, and the residents here could be easily trapped if that area burned.

Sincerely,

Patricia Waldygo
19 Dalton Road
Glorieta, NM 87535
505-757-2871

Email from Camille Massie dated March 22, 2014:

This is a letter of support for thinning Block E in Glorieta, New Mexico:

To Whom It May Concern,

After walking the land that I have loved and cared for to the best of my ability, with a few different forest service personnel, I came to understand that their ultimate goal was the health of the forest. They expressed that one of the many byproducts would be that when a fire occurred, healthy trees would have the potential of mitigating great harm to the forested area as a whole.

We humans are the ones that have created the enormous environmental issues in our world today. I feel it is our responsibility to do whatever we can to change the course of events through thoughtful, conscious action.

Bottom line this is why I support the thinning of Block E, for the sake of the trees, the health of the forest as a whole.

Thank you,

Camille Massie
131 La Cueva Rd.
Glorieta, NM 87535
(505) 699-5136

Email from Kendra Henington dated March 27, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn:

I am writing this on behalf of four property owners in La Cueva Canyon, Glorieta, NM. We strongly oppose the project of cutting 68,000 trees in Block E. When we purchased properties in this area we, like all others who reside here, selected the area due to its natural beauty, forested areas and wildlife. We understand the potential hazards of living in a heavily forested area but that is our choice to make. In addition, we do not believe that the proposed cutting will have much, if any, effect on fire suppression, etc.

It is appalling to us that this proposed action is even being considered. If this idea is not abandoned we will become victims in many ways. Not only will our quality of life be seriously affected, the value of our properties will undoubtedly be reduced as well. I am a realtor with Sotheby's International Realty who has sold properties in this area for eight years. By working closely with Buyers I am most familiar with the reasons they elect to purchase property in this area. As stated, the residents in this canyon were drawn to it's natural beauty. That will be significantly damaged if this project is implemented.

Sincerely.

Kendra Henington
Michael Henington
James Mohon
Jolene Mohon

Email from Jon Asher dated March 27, 2014:

PLEASE SHARE WITH THE CFRP PANEL

TO: Mr. Walter Dunn

Sir:

Please add my name to those in vigorous opposition to the request for CFRP Grant Application #21-14 La Cueva Fuel Break

The claim in the application that this fuel break will positively impact home/fire insurance rates has no basis in fact. Within the past year I surveyed three different carriers/agencies all writing policies in Glorieta. One was a representative of a Santa Fe-based agency representing numerous insurance carriers. In each instance I was assured neither the proposed fuel break or even the presence of a fire-fighting station would positively impact rates. Rates are determined by conditions over a widespread area, far larger than La Cueva.

There is strong anecdotal evidence that the proposed fuel break is a natural animal pathway, part of larger pathway that extends east almost to Canyoncito. We are already pressuring our diminishing wildlife to a dangerous level, and the fuel break would only exacerbate that.

Rather surprisingly, it now appears that the *majority* of La Cueva's residents have not even seen a copy of the grant proposal. I am certainly among them.

The prescription from the FS is flawed because, in just one instance of inaccuracies, it repeatedly references dwarf mistle toe impacting junipers – where it does not grow. Further, true mistle toe, which sometimes does grow on junipers, does not negatively impact them, as scientific studies have consistently demonstrated.

I have many more points but understand the real world aspects of comments like mine – there's only so much one can absorb.

Sincerely,

Jon Asher
226 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535-7000
jonasher@cybermesa.com

Email from Doug Booth submitted March 27, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn and Grant Evaluation Committee,

I submit the following letter in opposition to Grant Proposal # 21-14, La Cueva/Glorieta Fire Break for Block E

Despite the fact that the vast majority of our community rejected the grant of prescription thinning and rehabilitation of Block E last year, the same grant has been submitted again this year without soliciting formal community input.

These are the reasons I oppose the grant proposal, **and request to be heard at the hearing.**

1) THE PREVAILING WINDS IN LA CUEVA WILL RENDER FIRE TREATMENT OF BLOCK E USELESS

The map below shows both the location of Block E and the direction of winds traversing La Cueva (from the Southwest). Cutting trees in Block E, given the prevailing winds, will only affect folks living on top of the first hill and south from there towards the highway - perhaps 4 families. The rest of La Cueva, will not be protected by this fuel break. But, we will view the sea of tree stumps and absence of wildlife habitat every day as we drive by and know that a beautiful forest was destroyed for marginal gain.

OVERKILL

The prescription under consideration cites "500 to 600 trees per acre" on the 133 acres of Block E. The Forest Service will do "comprehensive thinning" that will reduce this forest to "30 to 40 trees per acre" according to the FS prescription. So, under this plan, 93.54% of Block E will be cut down in an area approximately one mile along La Cueva Road up from the highway and about 1,000 feet wide. **That's 68,000 trees killed.**

The Colorado's 2002 Hayman Fire Study, a study undertaken to assess the effectiveness of fuel modification programs **INCLUDING FUEL BREAKS** after the most devastating fire in Colorado's history, is instructive here. The Hayman study determined that **all** fuel modifications were overwhelmed by fire intensities, and that high winds and low moisture were far more determinative of fire severity than thinning or fuel break measures. Here are excerpts, the full study is attached.

- "Suppression efforts had little benefit from fuel modifications within the Hayman Fire"
- "Extreme environmental conditions (winds, weather, and fuel moisture) and the large size of the Hayman Fire... overwhelmed most fuel treatment effects in areas burned by the heading fire that day. This included almost all treatment methods

including prescribed burning and thinning. These extreme conditions and fire behaviors permitted intense surface fire through treated areas, leaving them with high levels of over-story crown damage. Fuel breaks and treatments were breached by massive spotting and intense surface fires.”

Destroying the forest in Block E may create some additional egress from a fire, but only if you are able to make it down the road to the fuel break, south of the first hill in a wildfire.

2) ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL #1 - WIDENING THE EASEMENT ALONG LA CUEVA ROAD WILL PROVIDE A VIABLE EXIT FOR ALL RESIDENTS

If we remove the fuel load from each side of La Cueva Road, all the way north to where the last resident lives, we would have a decent exit route in a fire. Property owners could trim their trees back, and we could petition the Forest Service to allow such trimming on Forest Service land.

3) ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL #2 - THIN AROUND YOUR HOMES

According to the Hayman Study and numerous commentaries, aggressive thinning around your home is the best way to protect your property. A minimum prescribed distance for removing fuel load is 30 feet. Krys Nystrom and the Glorieta Fire Dept. have excellent literature regarding the types of trees and shrubs that pose the greatest danger and those that are relatively safe for landscaping.

But, even the best thinned property can see an ember fly a mile or more to land on a home and set it afire. This is the risk we have assumed by living in a beautiful, vibrant forest filled with magnificent trees and wildlife. We are not willing to cut down this forest for a false sense of security and only marginal gain.

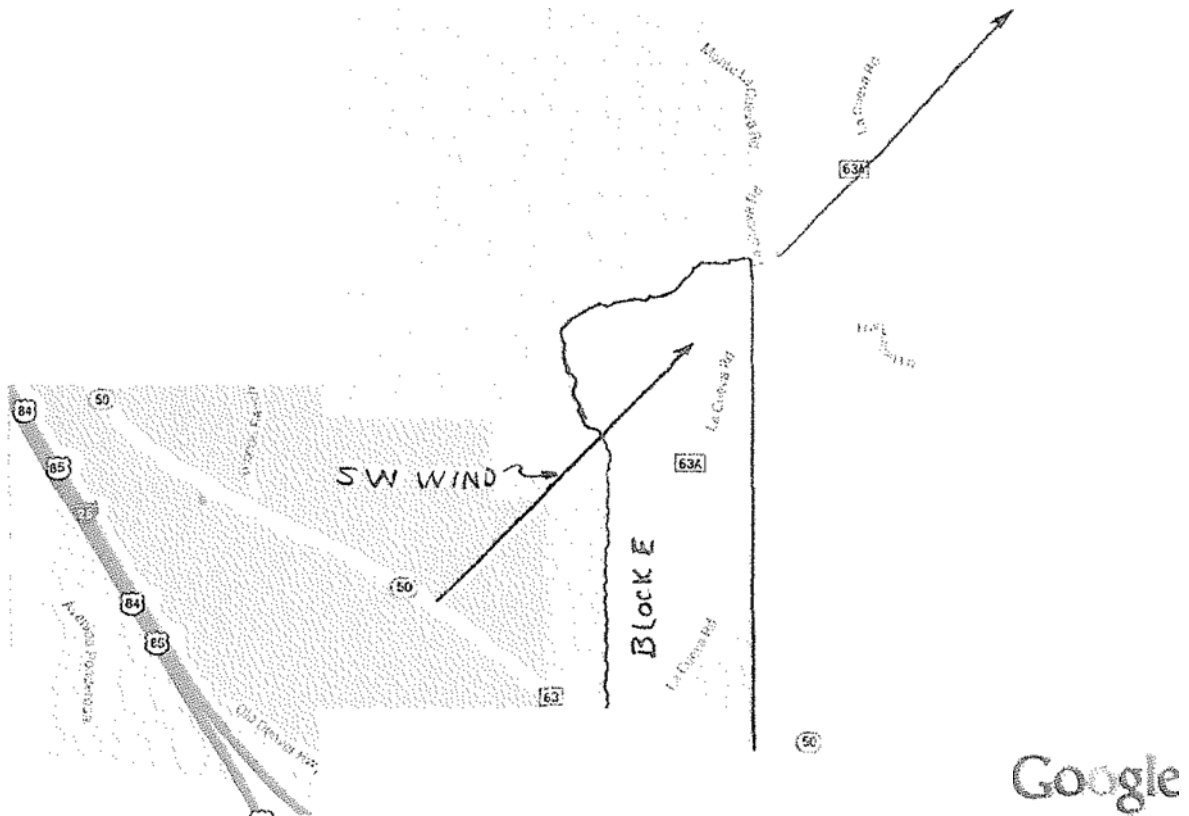
Mr. Dunn, please verify your receipt of this letter and my registration as a speaker at the hearing.

Many thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Doug Booth

Below is the map showing wind direction across Block E:

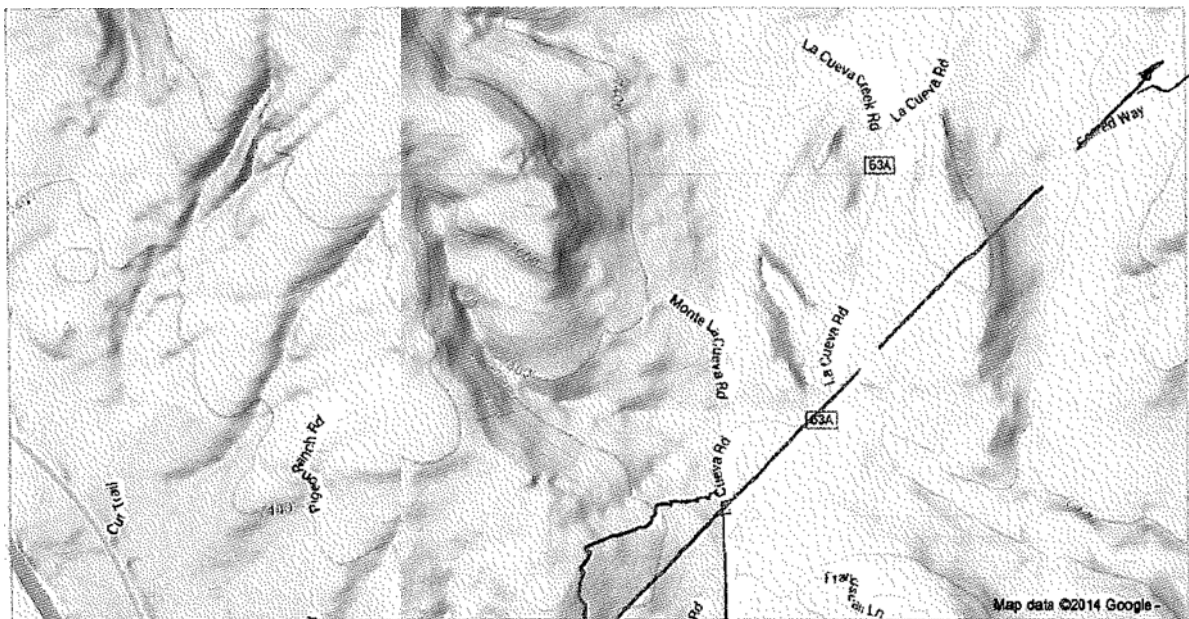


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Google

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.



<https://maps.google.com/maps?saddt=santa+fe,+NM&daddt=glorieta,nm>

1/25/2014

Hayman Fire Case Study

Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-114. 2003 9 indicated that it would “be instructive to take a close look at the behavior of the fire, examine the factors that led to its intensity, and see if the way it behaved when it encountered previously affected or treated areas can be instructive in designing future risk-reduction projects.” He went on to suggest that the Chief of the Forest Service establish a Hayman Fire Review Panel. Its purpose would be to focus on the future rather than attempt to assign blame for past events.

Congressman Udall raised several issues ranging in scope from how the fire behaved to how the fire impacted the soil and water resources of the Front Range. Using Congressman Udall’s suggestion as a basis, on July 22, 2002, the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in cooperation with USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region, and the State of Colorado Forest Service assembled the Hayman Fire Case Study Team. This Team of Federal, State, and local experts from throughout the United States came together and developed an analysis to address the Congressman’s issues.

Analysis questions were divided among subteams addressing fire behavior, home destruction, social and economic impacts, fire rehabilitation, and ecological effects. Using the Congressman’s issues each team developed a set of analysis questions and study direction. Techniques used by the subteams included interviews, analysis of existing data, expert opinion, Hayman Fire reports, and other available information. In November 2002 the Team presented its interim findings to the Congressman, public, forest managers, nongovernmental organizations, and the scientific community.

These groups and individuals provided critical input to the findings, and in February 2003 the subteams began assembling their final reports incorporating these reviews and criticisms. The reports underwent scientific peer review before the final drafts were prepared. The following highlights each subteam’s findings addressing the analysis questions.

.....

Fire Behavior _____

Team Leader Mark Finney, USDA Forest Service,
Rocky Mountain Research Station,
Missoula, Montana

This team used existing and new data on fire climatology and meteorology, fire behavior, fuel treatments, road density, fire suppression activities, and fire emissions. Selected findings of the team:

- The potential for extreme fire behavior was predisposed by drought. Below normal precipitation the past several years and the acute drought in 2002 brought about exceptionally low moisture contents of live foliage, duff, and dead fuels of all size classes.
- The Hayman Fire began and ended with extreme weather episodes lasting about 2 days each (June 8 and 9, and June 17 and 18). More moderate weather occurred during the intervening 6 days. Extreme weather conditions consisted of high winds (20 to 50 mph) and low humidity (5 percent). Widespread crown fire and long-range spotting lead to rapid growth and ultimately the large size of the fire. Abatement of winds and higher humidity during less extreme weather moderated fire behavior and effects, even with the abnormally low fuel moisture contents.
- Different wind directions associated with the two extreme weather episodes increased the size of the fire. The east flank of the fire that developed under southwest winds of June 8 and 9 became a heading fire on June 17 and 18 when winds shifted from the northwest and west.
- Continuous surface and crown fuel structure, both horizontally and vertically, in many ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir stands rendered them susceptible to torching, crown fire, and ignition by embers, even under moderate weather conditions (fig. 11).
- Continuous fuels across the landscape surrounding the South Platte River drainage afforded only limited opportunity for significant disruption of growth of the fire or for improved suppression. The few large areas on the Hayman landscape that recently experienced wildfires or management activities (Schoonover wildfire 2002, Polhemus prescribed burn 2001, Big Turkey wildfire 1998) produced significant but isolated effects on fire growth.
- Orientation of the South Platte River drainage was aligned with the strong southwest winds on June 8 and 9 and likely enhanced the direction and rapid spread of the fire on those dates.
- The presence of Cheesman Reservoir and the adjacency of the recent Schoonover wildfire (May 2002) in the center of the spread path created and maintained the characteristic forked shape of the Hayman Fire, which had formed two distinct heads by the afternoon of June 9.

- The Hayman Fire encountered most of the fuel treatments, prescribed burns, and previous wildfires within the perimeter on June 9 when the weather was extreme. Continuous crown fire and long-range spotting dominated the burning of approximately 60,000 acres that day from late morning through late evening. These extreme conditions and fire behaviors permitted intense surface fire through treated areas, leaving them with high levels of overstory crown damage. Fuel breaks and treatments were breached by massive spotting and intense surface fires.
- The fire was perhaps 20,000 acres when it encountered its first fuel treatments toward the southeastern side of Cheesman Reservoir toward mid-afternoon on June 9. At that time it was in the middle of the burning period and had developed a large convection column (fig. 13).
- Weather conditions were relatively moderate beginning on June 10 through 16 as the fire burned through Turkey Rx1990, Rx1995, Rx1987, and the 1998 Big Turkey wildfire. Fire behavior these days was predominated by surface fire, although torching and some crown fire occurred in some drainages and hillslopes (fig. 14).
- Extreme weather returned on June 17 and 18. Crown fire and longrange spotting was occurring just before the fire burned into fuel treatments in the Manitou Experimental Forest and the North Divide prescribed burns (fig. 15). Observations and weather records suggest a wind shift occurred just before fire entered Manitou.
- Extreme environmental conditions (winds, weather, and fuel moisture) and the large size of the Hayman Fire that developed on June 9 overwhelmed most fuel treatment effects in areas burned by the heading fire that day. This included almost all treatment methods including prescribed burning and thinning.
- Several exceptions to this included the Polhemus prescribed burn (2001), the Schoonover wildfire (2002), and the Platte Springs wildfire (2002) that occurred less than 1 year earlier. These areas did actually appear to stop the fire locally, illustrating that removal of surface fuels alone (irrespective of thinning or changes to canopy fuels) can dramatically alter fire behavior within 1 year of treatment. The potential for prescribed fire to mitigate wildfire behavior will undoubtedly decrease over time. Thus, the recent occurrence of fuel modification in these areas suggests caution in trying to generalize about fuel treatment performance over many years. Fuel treatments are expected to change fire behavior but not necessarily stop fires (fig. 18).
- Fire behavior was modified but not stopped by stand thinning operations

conducted at Manitou Experimental Forest. The operations apparently moderated fire behavior and effects during extreme weather on June 18 (fig. 19). A fortuitous shift in winds also contributed to the changes in fire behavior at Manitou. The fire burned rapidly through areas of the Wildcat wildfire (1963) and the Northrup prescribed burn (1992) south of Cheesman Reservoir, but the open forest structure of these areas probably increased the survival of trees and stands within them.

- Under more moderate wind and humidity conditions (June 10 through 16), recent prescribed burns appeared to have lower fire severity than older burns. This is consistent with trends in fuel accretion and changes in forest fuels over time. Examples include the sequence of Turkey (Rx1987, Rx1990, Rx1995) prescribed burns.
- Cutting treatments where activity fuels were not removed experienced high surface fire intensities but were less likely to support crown fire. For example, residual trees in the Sheepnose timber sale (2001) were scorched and probably killed, but their foliage was generally not consumed by crown fire. When these needles fall they mulch the forest floor reducing soil erosion (fig. 20).

However, the Goose Creek timber sale was followed by prescribed fire but made little difference to severity on June 19 (fig. 21).

- Several landscape effects of treatment units and previous wildfires were important in changing the progress of the fire. These include the Polhemus prescribed burn (2001), which stopped the forward progress of the eastern head burning as a crown fire under extreme weather conditions (fig. 20), the Big Turkey wildfire (1998) and adjacent prescribed fires (Rx1990, Rx1995), which prevented initiation of crown fire along a 2 mile segment of the perimeter when extreme weather returned on June 17 (fig. 22), and the Schoonover Wildfire (May 2002), which, together with Cheesman Reservoir, split the head of the Hayman Fire on June 9 (fig. 23) and prevented it from flanking toward the town of Deckers (fig. 24, 25).

- The size of the fuel treatment unit relative to the size of the wildfire was probably important to the impact on both progress and severity within the treatment unit. Large areas such as the Polhemus prescribed burn (approximately 8,000 acres) were more effective than small fuel breaks (Cheesman Ridge, 51 acres) in changing the fire progress. Under extreme conditions of June 9, spotting easily breached narrow treatments, and the rapid movement of the fire circumvented small units (fig. 26).

- No fuel treatments were encountered when the fire was small. The fire had time and space to develop a broad front and generate a large

convection column before encountering most treatment units. Fuel treatments may have been more effective in changing fire behavior if they were encountered earlier in the progression of the Hayman Fire before mass ignition was possible.

Figure 23—

- Few fuel treatments had been performed recently, leaving most of the landscape within the final fire perimeter with no treatment or only older treatments. This is significant because the high degree of continuity in age and patch structure of fuels and vegetation facilitates fire growth that, in turn, limits the effectiveness of isolated treatment units.
- Road density varied considerably within the perimeter of the Hayman Fire but was not found to be associated with fire severity or bio-physical conditions related to fire behavior.
- At the time of initial attack, even the unusually strong compliment of firefighting resources (air and ground) was not sufficient to contain or stop the fire due to extreme weather conditions and fuel structures that facilitated crown fire and spotting (fig. 10).
- On the days of extreme fire growth (June 8 and 9, and June 17 and 18), burning conditions and weather dictated an indirect attack strategy with efforts focused on evacuation, structure protection where safely allowable, and direct methods on the heel and flanks of the fire.
- In the Lost Creek Wilderness little active suppression took place. Efforts were primarily directed at aerial observation, patrolling, and location and evacuation of hikers.
- Suppression efforts had little benefit from fuel modifications within the Hayman Fire. Exceptions include the Polhemus prescribed fire (2001), two previous wildfires (Schoonover 2002 and Big Turkey 1998), and thinning operations at Manitou Experimental Forest. One of the only sections of fireline indicated as controlled through June 16 (fig. 18) was in the Polhemus burn.
- On active burning days direct line was often not held and crews retreated to safety zones until fire conditions moderated, then returned to mop up around structures or defend structures where safely obtainable.
- On days with moderate weather and fire growth, the lines were defendable and structure protection was successful. For example, on June 12 structures in the Sportsman Paradise as well as in the Cedar Mountain, Turkey Creek, and along Turkey Creek were defendable even when fire behavior picked up in the afternoon hours.
- Indirect tactics were used when fire behavior dictated for safety reasons and when access and rough steep terrain came into play. At times, burnout

operations did not take place due to unfavorable weather conditions, were not completed due to changing weather conditions, or interrupted during operational periods because work-rest ratio guidelines would have been exceeded.

Email from Lyra Barron submitted March 27, 2014:

TO: Walter Dunn
Program Manager

RE: Grant Application 21-14, 2014 CFRP for Fuel Break of Block E, La Cueva Road, Glorieta, NM

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that I would like to be scheduled to testify against this application when the review process is occurring. Following are my feelings about this application.

The current fuel break project of Block E in La Cueva calls for a reduction of trees from 500 – 600 per acre to 30- 40 per acre, which is essentially the destruction of 94% of the trees over 130 acres. If you do the math, we are talking about the destruction of **68,000 trees**. Some of the Forest Service own studies show a very limited effectiveness of thinning in the forest, as opposed to focusing around your homes. Our beautiful drive will be turned into a sea of stumps. The Forest Service was unwilling to consider modifying this treatment, even though the majority of the community did not favor this extreme treatment.

This proposal was submitted listing the community as a “partner”, even knowing that there are many community members who strongly oppose it. This community is deeply divided on this issue, and there was no poll taken this year, as there was last year, to establish levels of support and opposition. Last year’s poll revealed that 80% of the community opposed this extreme prescription. This year it was pushed through without a poll by a zealous handful in favor. However the numbers might fall, it is clear that there remain large numbers of residents who passionately oppose this treatment.

I have also read the Hayman Fire Case Study, a scientific study that examined the devastating fire in neighboring Colorado in terrain not so different from our own, which concluded that environmental conditions overwhelmed fuel modifications performed and thus did not conclusively support the effectiveness of these treatments. Therefore I can find no rationale to justify the sacrifice of thousands of trees that provide home and habitat to countless species, that are a source of beauty and inspiration, that are sacred to me.

In conclusion, I urge you not to fund this application, and to consider that this community is far from unanimous in its support of this proposal, with significant and passionate opposition. I would hope you would rather favor proposals where the mandate of those involved is clear, and not so strongly divided.

Respectfully,

Lyra Barron
124B La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Email from Daniel Smith submitted March 27, 2014:

Walter Dunn,

This to express my strong opposition to the proposed establishment of a substantial fuel break at the entry to La Cueva Canyon from Highway 50. I own two residential properties just off La Cueva Creek Rd and feel that this fuel break will be disastrous in many ways. I have lived in Santa Fe/Pecos area for 64 years and have a feel for the land and what I think the risks vs. rewards are of living where we have chosen to have residences. I am impressed with the amount of research that has been done by the local residents in opposition to this project. I support without reservation almost every objection that has been voiced. I am sorry that I will be unable to attend the hearing, but I am hopeful that the voices of the many whose personal enjoyment, property, values and lives will be negative effected if this fuel break is established, will be not only be heard but honored.

If it were not for my neighbors I would not have any direct knowledge of what you have been and are planning. The whole process seems somewhat askew.
Please keep me informed as to the status of this project.

Thanks,
Dan

Daniel M. Smith
1 A La Cueva Creek Rd.
1 C La Cueva Creek Rd.
Mailing:
PO Box 4701
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-4701
(505) 660-6077

Email from Mary Powell submitted March 27, 2014:

I am writing in reference to the proposed thinning project in La Cueva near Glorieta. I have been a resident of this community since 1972 and am strongly connected to the land and the community. I believe that this "thinning" project amounts to a clear cut and an unnecessary number of trees would be removed. The number is estimated at 68,000 on very little acreage. This is more than is need to control fire and is bad for the health of the forest.

Sincerely

Mary Powell
318 La Cueva Rd
Glorieta, New Mexico
505-757-6783

Email from Doug Booth dated March 27, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn,

The author of this note, Ms. Owings, asked to be included in the “opposition letter” previously submitted to you and the committee. She also asked that I forward this note to you. She will not be testifying, only myself and Lyra Barron will testify in opposition to 21-14, as far as I know.

Thank you,
Doug Booth

Dear Doug,

I understand that thinning of our forest can help prevent massive forest fires. I also understand that our forest is home to many forms of wildlife. I do not want to see our local wildlife displaced by unreasonable clearing. It is our obligation to protect humans from forest fires, but it is also our obligation to protect wildlife from displacement and disrespect. I would like to see a reasonable thinning of the forest compatible to both worlds.

Regards,

Natalie Owings, Director
The Heart and Soul Animal Sanctuary

Email from Gary Storm dated March 27, 2014:

Walter Dunn
US Forest Service

We oppose the current plan for fire remediation. It will be destructive of the forest as a whole, as well as the wildlife, the archaeological resources, the paleontological resources, and the beauty of the area. It is based upon questionable scientific principles. It shows no regard for the interests and factual knowledge of those of us who live here.

Gary Storm
Linda Storm
198 State Route 50
Glorieta, NM 87535

Email from Robert Weisz dated March 28, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn,

This is my statement of support for the CFRP project of thinning of Block E at the entrance to La Cueva Valley.

I have been a resident of La Cueva since 1989.

I am acutely aware of the serious fire danger to our community, including the fact that there is only one access and evacuation route into our valley.

We have carried out significant thinning of the forest around our residence, at a level similar to the prescription that the US Forest Service has developed for Block E. We are very satisfied with the tree density of 30 to 40 trees per acre that resulted from that thinning. It has vastly improved the terrain, has given the remaining trees a much better supply of water, light, and nutrients, has allowed grasses and wildflowers to thrive, and has resulted in a very attractive, healthy, spacious forest.

For multiple, urgent reasons, including the improvement of the health of the existing forest, creating a viable fuel break at the entrance to our valley, contribution to more effective firefighting conditions, and significant reduction of the chances of a catastrophic firestorm that could engulf the entire valley, I strongly support the CFRP project for the thinning of Block E, including the prescription presented by the Forest Service silviculturalists.

I regard the Block E thinning as a critical component in the long-term effort to improve the health of the forest and for the development of a Fire-Safe community in the La Cueva Valley. It will encourage and support other thinning efforts that are essential for the well-being and for the fire safety of the forest and all the inhabitants of La Cueva.

Robert Weisz
39 Camino La Cueva
Glorieta, NM 87535

Email from William Gooch dated March 28, 2014:

Dear Mr Dunn,

I would like to go on record as strongly opposing the referenced grant proposal for thinning of block E of the National Forest in La Cueva. This block is immediately south of my property at 30 Monte La Cueva Road, and I don't believe that the proposed thinning will protect me or other residents from the danger of wildfire.

I do believe however that the proposed degree of thinning is excessive and will do serious damage to the forest, the wildlife, and the watershed and will create a major eyesore along Route 63a. I think there is no scientific evidence to support thinning of such a severe degree and I haven't seen any rationale leading me to the conclusion that it is justified or appropriate.

Thanks very much for your attention to this important issue.

Yours truly,

Bill Gooch
30 Monte la Cueva Road
Glorieta

Email from Carol Johnson dated March 28, 2014:

PLEASE SHARE THIS LETTER WITH THE CFRP PANEL

I live in the La Cueva area of Glorieta, and am writing in opposition to the grant application for a fuel break on Block E in the Santa Fe National Forest, adjacent to the community of La Cueva. The grant is being requested by Santa Fe County Fire Department WUI Division in collaboration with the Santa Fe National Forest, Pecos Ranger District.

Lack of Collaboration: Contrary to what is stated in the Application, this is not a collaborative project with the community of La Cueva. In fact, with few exceptions, the residents have not even seen the written proposal. I personally requested a copy of the grant application 4x and have not received a response.

Flawed Prescription and Proposal: The Forest Service prescription cites “500 – 600 trees per acre” on the 133 acres of Block E. The Forest service will do “comprehensive thinning” that will reduce this forest to “30 to 40 trees per acre.” Under this plan, 93.54% of Block E trees will be cut down in an area approximately one mile along La Cueva Rd. and approximately 1000 feet wide. That’s 68,000 trees cut down. This is an unnecessarily severe prescription.

A) The prescription is flawed. For example, there are repeated references to “dwarf mistletoe” in juniper. As pointed out by NM Forestry, dwarf mistletoe does not grow in juniper; true mistletoe grows in juniper.

B) Block E is a forest with varying species, Pinon/Juniper and considerable ponderosa. The prescription references a pinon/juniper forest.

The proposed fuel break is a poor use of public funds.

The Community desires to provide egress in case of wildfire which may (or may not) start in Block E. The fuel break will not accomplish the intended fire protection for the community. As one highly-respected member of the Santa Fe National Forest said, “if the purpose is to protect

the community from wildfire, it is a waste of time. It is a waste of time to thin the forest unless people thin the property around their homes.”

The prevailing winds in La Cueva are from the southwest and will render fire treatment of the 133 acres in Block E ineffective. A fuel break in Block E will only affect a few homes 1 mile up La Cueva Rd. and the forest south from there to the highway. The majority of La Cueva will receive no protection from this fuel break.

A far better alternative is to remove the fuel load from each side of La Cueva Rd., all the way north to where the last resident lives, creating a decent exit route and access for fire-fighting equipment. We would not need a federal grant to do this.

This project could be changed to a “thinning” prescription, use the same NEPA, and proceed with a more reasonable project, resulting in a healthy forest, wildlife and soils.

Wildlife is prevalent in Block E, including bobcat, cougar, deer, weasel, fox and others. Block E is a section of wildlife pathway which connects Glorieta Mesa and La Cueva. A severe fuel break is a damaging decision for this area.

This area of the forest is already “prone to erosion,” and the widespread disturbance of the forest floor, ground vegetation and of root structures that will unavoidably result from removing 92-95% of the trees can only make erosion problems considerably worse.

I can enthusiastically support a sustainable restoration project, but not actions which impoverish nature, such as those proposed by the SFNF prescription. I have great respect for the CFRP program, and only desire that CFRP funds be used in the best scientific, ecological and economically sustainable manner. I therefore urge the CFRP panel to deny this grant request.

Sincerely,

Carol J. Johnson

226 La Cueva Rd.
Glorieta, NM 87535
carolj@cybermesa.com
505-757-2988

Email from Doug Booth dated March 28, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn,

Here is a letter from another neighbor who has requested that I forward it to you.

Thanks,

Doug Booth

I just spent the whole entire weekend out on our property. Three trees went down during the major wind we had last week. The trees are huge Aspen trees down in the creek area and many of them are in bad shape from the many years of drought.

It was such a pleasure to be out among my trees and it helps with my grieving process.

I intend to do a lot more out on the property. I don't cut any tree down unless it falls on its own or is already dead. I do trim the lower branches and keep the underbrush clear and any brush that builds up I haul to the Eldorado dump so there is no excess brush in case of fire.

I don't worry a whole lot about fire but I know absolutely that it is a very real possibility. I love where I live and the possibility of fire is a fact I deal with and move on with my life. I certainly don't want hundreds of trees cut down.

I would never want to live near the ocean as tsunamis, hurricanes and such are a scary thing to me. That's the thing though...I purposely stay away from living in an area that causes such concern. If I were as afraid of fire, I wouldn't live in an area surrounded by beautiful trees.

Hope this helps!

Marsha Dalton
13 Dalton Road, Glorieta, NM

Email from Marsha Dalton dated March 28, 2014:

Hi Walter,

My address is 13 Dalton Rd. Glorieta, NM 87535 and email is mdalton@1stnationalbanknm.com. I already sent Doug Booth a letter to be used some time ago.

I oppose the cutting of 68,000 trees in Block E, La Cueva Forest.

Thanks!

Marsha Dalton

Email from Doug Booth submitted March 28, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn and Committee Members,

Thirty-two persons living in the La Cueva Road area strongly oppose the funding of grant application #21-14, for numerous reasons. Our concerns range from the devastating environmental and aesthetic effects of cutting 68,000 trees within a 133 acre stretch for negligible gain, to the destruction of our precious wildlife habitat.

TOO DRASTIC A PLAN FOR NEGLIGIBLE GAIN

The Grant Proposal's stated aim is to reduce the current "fuel load" from 500 to 600 trees per acre down to 30 to 40 trees. This means cutting 93.54% of the trees in Block E, or 68,000-plus trees (550 minus 35 = 515 X 133 = 68,495). Given the northeasterly prevailing winds in the region, most La Cueva residents live too far north of Block E to be afforded real fire protection by the proposed plan, and those residents living adjacent to Block E, who might be protected from the spread of fire, are unanimously against the plan as it would eradicate their adjoining forest.

The added egress potential will be marginal, given the long distance most residents must drive south to reach Block E. A less drastic alternative, providing egress to the entire community, would be thinning only those trees standing along La Cueva Road, creating a wider roadway. Last year, when the same grant was proposed, the Grant writers were asked to consider modifying the prescription (80% polled last year felt it too extreme) but they declined to make any modifications.

HARM TO WILDLIFE HABITAT AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The massive cutting proposed will have devastating effects on the rich variety of wildlife living in Block E, including one known Mountain Lion family. The extensive cutting will undoubtedly cause erosion problems to the forest floor. Furthermore, the remaining slash will be left on the ground for 2 – 3 years according to the proposal, not only creating additional fire danger, but also attracting bark beetles.

Lastly, community residents were not polled to ascertain whether or not they supported the Grant application before we were designated a "partner", notwithstanding last year's clear mandate for a more modified approach to fire safety in La Cueva.

We thank the Committee for your consideration of our concerns.

32 Community Members signing in opposition to Grant Application 21-14:

Marsha Dalton
Melissa Dalton
#13 Dalton Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Joanne Sullivan
10 Monte La Cueva
Glorieta, NM

William Hooch
#30 Monte La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Dan Smith
1A La Cueva Road
1C La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Stephanie Garcia
112 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Paul Wear
124A La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Lyra Barron
Doug Booth
124B La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Keith Simons
Karen Simons
208 A La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Natalie Owing
74 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Rick Horsey
Marleen Horsey
#10 Franciscan Lane
Glorieta, NM 87535

Mary Powell
138 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Natasha Ryan
138 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Carol Johnson
Jon Asher
226 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

James Mohan
Jolene Mohan
30-A Sacred Way
Glorieta, NM 87535

Gary Storm
Linda Storm
198 State Road 50
Glorieta, NM 87535

Kenra Henington
Michael Henington
16 Sacred Way
Glorieta, NM 87535

Richard Mietz
286 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Steve Flance
Kristen Flank
La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Karyn Rose
La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Frank Parker
Carol Parker
La Cueva Creek Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Dean Mitchell
300 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Kathleen O'Neill
190 State Road 50
Glorieta, NM 87535

Email from Rick Horsey dated March 28, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn;

My name is Rick Horsey, and I live directly adjacent to the proposed Block E Fuel Break that is under consideration for a Fuel Break Grant. My address is # 10 Franciscan Lane, Glorieta, NM. When I first heard about the prospect of such a thinning project, I was unsure of what the correct course of action should be on this issue. I began to study the issue of forest fires, fuel treatments, and their efficacy in preventing or stopping forest fires. I read extensively about this and eventually was led to the large case study of the Hayman Fire in Colorado performed by the Rocky Mountain Research Station in conjunction with the US Forest Service. This study was and still is, the largest and most comprehensive study ever performed on a large scale forest fire in the USA. The study was performed by the leading fire experts in the country at the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

I have attached the actual Hayman Fire Case Study Summary for your use. I urge you to read this, because it clearly indicates that the known science of today shows that in extreme weather conditions defined as 20 to 50 MPH winds and low humidity, fuel treatments have very little, if any, impact on fire behavior. It also indicates that in more moderate conditions, the fire's behavior is normally confined to surface fire anyway. Please read this insert from that study:

“• Extreme environmental conditions (winds, weather, and fuel moisture) and the large size of the Hayman Fire that developed on June 9 overwhelmed most fuel treatment effects in areas burned by the heading fire that day. This included almost all treatment methods including prescribed burning and thinning.

• Several exceptions to this included the Polhemus prescribed burn (2001), the Schoonover wildfire (2002), and the Platte Springs wildfire (2002) that occurred less than 1 year earlier. These areas did actually appear to stop the fire locally, illustrating that removal of surface fuels alone (irrespective of thinning or changes to canopy fuels) can dramatically alter fire behavior within 1 year of treatment. The potential for prescribed fire to mitigate wildfire behavior will undoubtedly decrease over time. Thus, the recent occurrence of fuel modification in these areas suggests caution in trying to generalize about fuel treatment performance over many years. Fuel treatments are expected to change fire behavior but not necessarily stop fires (fig. 18). “

(Please note that the above mentioned exceptions to the rule found in the Hayman case fire Study were both very recent and very large scale previous fires or prescribed burns.)

From this study, I have concluded that the current practice of destroying our forests in the name of fire prevention is very misguided and does not comply with the known science that was developed by the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the US Forest Service. In extreme weather conditions, fuel treatments, including fuel breaks, and especially treatments that are either more than a few years old or that are very small in size, such as the Block E Fuel Break that is being proposed, are simply not effective in their stated goal of fire prevention or the reduction of fire severity.

It is unlikely that the destruction of the Block E grant area would have any real impact on the goals outlined in the grant write-up, and will most definitely have a very detrimental effect on the area we live in and the area I personally walk through almost every day.

The additional fact that the slash from this proposed “Fuel Break” Grant is not even going to be cleaned up or chipped for several years after this forest is almost totally cut down only adds to the fire hazard that this grant is supposed to alleviate.

It appears from the Block E Prescription documents that 93% of the trees would or could be cut down. This is absolutely unacceptable to me.

I have tried very hard to present an alternative solution to the Santa Fe County Fire Dept., the Forest Guild and to the US Forest Service, specifically to their Mr. Ken Reese. I have suggested that following the NM State thinning guidelines of 60 sq ft/acre basal area would be a reasonable and acceptable alternative to the majority of the community. Mr. Reese refused to consider any alternative other than his own, and showed no willingness to change the prescription to more reasonable definitions.

The destruction of the forest around and along our properties border of approx. 2,000 foot with block E would destroy our property value and the view that we look out on every single day.

Therefore, I have no other alternative left but to resist this Block E grant with every means available to me including direct legal action against all agencies associated with this Grant Proposal.

My wife and I do not consider such action lightly nor do we prefer such action, but based on all of our communications and attempts to reach a more reasonable alternative, we are left with no other options should this grant be approved.

Sincerely,
Rick and Marleen Horsey
10 Franciscan Lane
Glorieta, NM 87535
505-660-7970

Email from Lyra Barron dated March 28, 2014:

To the Grant Committee and Mr. Dunn:

Both Keith and Karen Simons, residing at 208 B La Cueva Rd, Glorieta, NM 87535 wish to state our opposition to the current grant proposal 21-14 for the thinning of Block E which adjoins La Cueva Rd. as it enters from Hwy. 50.

It is our feeling that this extreme thinning proposal (under current US Forest Service guidelines) would denude the area of trees, lead to erosion and possible mud slides during rainy periods, dust storms during dry periods, and generally degrade the entire ecosystem and the life support system of the animals and plants living there. We do not believe such a thinning would even help our overall neighborhood with fire control, but would certainly damage the appearance of our valley in a dramatic way, in addition to the other severe consequences just mentioned.

Sincerely,

Keith Simons & Karen Simons

Email from Stephanie Garcia dated March 28, 2014:

Dear Mr Dunn,

Historically we know what happened when people cut down all the trees in their environment--the wind and rain carried the topsoil away and ultimately a permanent desert was created. More recently we know what happens when corporate greed leads to the destruction of forests and jungles--one more significant factor contributing to global warming.

Yet even while this environmental disaster is taking place on a huge scale, both scientists as well as less credentialed people of all ages are speaking out and beyond that planting trees to attempt to effect the future of our planet. I was in the southern part of India and observed a youth group led by a Hindu monk planting trees.

We are so fortunate to live in the midst of thousands of forested acres. Why should we assume that cutting virtually every tree on 130 acres would protect us from wildfire. This is absurd. How can we predict where and how wildfires will start. How can we control the forces of nature. Although we have learned to destroy our earth, we have not learned to control the forces of nature yet.

In my opinion, cutting the trees on Block E is a random act of violence. It is also an act of extreme arrogance--an assumption that an arbitrary fearful act that we hope will protect ourselves doesn't require us to think of the live trees and wildlife who call that area their home. I cannot agree to allow trees to be cut on Block E.

Following the recommendations of many wildfire experts, all of us can choose to create a zone of safety around our own homes. We do not need to choose vast wanton destruction in an attempt to create for ourselves a false sense of security which has no basis in reality. We are so fortunate to live in this extraordinary environment. Let's not destroy it thru wishful thinking

Sincerely,

Stephanie Garcia
112 La Cueva Rd Glorieta NM 87535

Email from Natash Ryan dated March 29, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn,

I am writing to briefly voice my opinion on the proposed "thinning" project that is up for debate on La Cueva Rd in Glorieta. I would just like to say that I am vehemently opposed to the project. It makes no sense, on any level (other than a fear based level) to cut down the trees in this area, in fact, it is deleterious to the environment on many levels, one of them being the reduction in atmospheric humidity that is created by the transpiration of trees which provide us with water and oxygen, not to mention the destruction of wildlife habitat that exists in this area. Something that worries me greatly is that the majority of people in this area who support the proposal to cut

the trees are people who have no financial struggles and bought land because they wanted to live in a natural, forested area and now, due to their fear of potential fire risk, want to completely change the natural environment so that it assuages their fears. Fire is a natural occurrence and if these people really think that their homes will be safer if they cut down most of the trees... they're in for a rude awakening if a fire does occur. One of my neighbors recently thinned his entire property at a percentage that is much lower than the proposed "thinning" project. My stomach and heart drop every time I drive past the stretch of the road that his property is on. It looks sad and unnatural to me and I can't imagine living in the area that I love if it was to look like that property, or worse, meaning even more clear cut. Please, Please take into consideration the heartfelt and statistically based opinions of those of us living in this area (in my case for 20 years) who know how foolish it would be to allow this "thinning" to take place. All of these trees were here long before we were and I'm betting and hoping that they will be here long after we're gone. Please don't take a part in supporting a proposal instigated by fear and ignorance that will negatively affect an entire ecosystem... and my home and the homes of my neighbors . Thank you very much for your time and I apologize if I wasn't as brief as you would have liked.

Natasha Ryan
138 la Cueva Rd
Glorieta, NM 87535
[505-757-3037](tel:505-757-3037)
cell [505-699-6633](tel:505-699-6633)

Email from Greg Fuess dated March 30, 2014:

Greg Fuess
84 La Cueva Road
Glorieta, NM 87535

Walter Dunn
US Forest Service
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Dunn,

As a resident of the La Cueva community since October 2012, I am writing this email to you in support of the CFRP project of thinning of Block E at the entrance to La Cueva Valley. I lend my support to this project due to the serious fire danger that ignoring the current forest overgrowth poses to our community, including the single evacuation route available to our valley.

I have carried out significant thinning of the forest on and around my residence under the guidance and with the participation of the State of New Mexico Forestry, Bernilillo District, at a level similar to the prescription that the US Forest Service has developed for Block E. While I

am satisfied with the resulting tree density of 57 basal square feet, additional thinning would have significantly improved the terrain, given the remaining trees a much better supply of water, light, and nutrients, allowed grasses and wildflowers to thrive. Nonetheless, the thinning that was completed this year has resulted in an attractive, healthy, spacious forest.

For multiple reasons, including the improvement of the health of the existing forest, creating a viable fuel break at the entrance to our valley, contribution to more effective firefighting conditions, and significant reduction of the chances of a catastrophic firestorm that could engulf the entire valley, I support the CFRP project for the thinning of Block E, including the prescription presented by the Forest Service silviculturalist. Allowing this opportunity to slip away from us would be a disservice to our community and our national forest.

Block E thinning is a critical component in the long-term effort to improve the health of the forest and for the development of a Fire-Wise community in the La Cueva Valley. It will encourage and support other thinning efforts that are essential for the well-being and for the fire safety of the forest and all the inhabitants of La Cueva.

Sincerely,

Greg Fuess

Email from Matthew Clinton dated April 3, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my comments regarding the CFRP/ Block E grant proposal, for the area surrounding Santa Fe County RD 63-A (La Cueva Rd.)

I have lived on La Cueva Rd since 2001, with my wife and three children, I have attended many meetings discussing the implications of this proposal, and I would like to express my firm support for the CFRP/ Block E grant proposal. I understand that the community I live in is directly threatened by the severe fire conditions currently prevailing throughout the west, and I also understand that the danger these conditions represent are a threat not only to myself, my family, and my neighbors but importantly to the professionals who manage the public lands and especially to those professionals who fight fire on our behalf.

Thank you for considering approval of the CFRP/ Block E grant proposal. I know there are many communities who would be very grateful to have a shot at the kind of investment in fire mitigation that this proposal entails. I humbly ask that you view this proposal favorably.

Thank you,

Matthew J. Clinton
39 Monte La Cueva Rd
Glorieta, NM 87535

matthewjclinton@yahoo.com
(505) 670-8719

Email from Diane Haug dated April 4, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn,

My name is Diane Haug. I've been a resident in the La Cueva Valley / Glorieta for approximately eighteen years.

This last year my partner, Robert Weisz, and I have become increasingly aware and concerned about the extreme wildfire risks inherent to our area – risks for both property owners as well as fire / forestry professionals. In the last months we have worked hard to help heighten community awareness and to support the goal of becoming a more FIREWISE community.

Given all that I have learned in this process, I am very much IN FAVOR of the proposed CFRP Block E thinning project.

In terms of both fire mitigation and forest health, I see the thinning of Block E as a VERY important component of a comprehensive 'community fire plan'.

I would like to express my appreciation for the generous support (i.e. time, energy and information) offered by various local, state, and federal professionals such as Krys Nystrom (SFCFD/ Wildlands), Eytan Krasilovsky (Forest Guild), George Smithson and Todd Hayes (NM State Forestry), and Ken Reese (USFS). We are very grateful to be considered for this grant.

Sincerely,

Diane Haug
39 Camino la Cueva
Glorieta, NM

Email from Doug Booth dated April 2, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn,

This is to let you know that two more La Cueva residents have signed on to our opposition letter to funding grant #21-14, bringing the total to 34. They are Celeste Yacoboni and Mark Gayer who live on Sacred Way off La Cueva Road in Glorieta, NM.

Also, please confirm that Lyra Barron, Doug Booth and Natalie Owens have slots for testimony this Monday, if you would. We all requested time to testify prior to March 28th.

Thank you,

Doug Booth

Email from Rick Horsey dated April 6, 2014:

Dear Mr. Dunn:

I wish to thank you for sending this information out to us for our review.

I have read the GTR-310 technical report issued by the RMRS in August of 2013 and believe that it is also recommending that we restore our forest to the pre-European Historical forest. It appears to me that this report is balanced, fair and reasonable and states as known science and preferred restoration practice, that the forest can be restored without destroying it as is currently being proposed by the La Cueva Fuel Break grant project.

The majority of those of us who are against this current grant project for Block E Fuel Break # 21-14 are resisting the project due to the definition of the prescription as it is currently written. I believe that very few people in the La Cueva valley would be opposed to a restoration project based upon the conclusions of the RMRS report you have supplied.

This report states that the planned tree densities' for a dry mixed conifer forest should range between 40 and 125 sqft/acre basal area and tree densities from 20 to 100 trees per acre. The RMRS study project did not appear to be defined by a maximum number of trees to be left in any given area, but by the goal of restoring the forest to its optimal health keeping in mind the fire survivability issue as well.

Our valley is most likely in the cooler/moister area of a mixed conifer forest as is discussed in the GTR-310 report and therefore should have even larger densities of leave trees. Also, the test forest upon which this report is based had much larger trees than are found in the La Cueva Valley so the number of trees to reach these average basal areas would need to rise to be consistent with the known science.

Based on this latest science described in your report, and understanding that our Block E forest contains on average basal area of 65 sqft/acre according to the USFS study during the grant preparation process, it would appear that only a moderate restoration project would be necessary to meet the requirements of the latest science developed by your organization.

Many of us, do and will strongly oppose the current written prescription for the Block E Grant project # 21-14. It is, in my opinion, not based on the best science which is what I have been saying for a long time now. However, I believe that if the latest concepts of forest restoration based on the GTR-310 report conclusions were to be used and considered in a grant application,

I believe that the majority of the people in the La Cueva Valley could support a re-write of the grant to follow the guidelines now being set out by the RMRS.

It is my opinion that the current grant proposal 21-14 should be postponed until it can be written properly and utilize the science that is known today. If we do not make the changes to the

prescription that so many of us have suggested in the past, this project will be even more divisive to our community than it is currently.

It is my strong recommendation that the Block E Fuel Break Project be changed to a Block E Forest Restoration project based on the GTR-310 report. If this were done and if the leave trees and forest basal areas were generally as recommended by the latest science in your report, I think that a great service would be done for our community.

Sincerely;

Rick Horsey
#10 Franciscan Ln.
La Cueva Valley, Glorieta, NM

Email from Dan and Monica Johnson dated April 7, 2014:

Mr. Dunn,

We fully support Santa Fe County FD's application for CFRP grant to complete remediation of Block E of USFS'S 2005 La Cueva Fuel Break project. Every fire official from Dr. Craig Allen to NM Forestry to our own Glorieta Pass FD have repeatedly warned of the eminent threat to the lives, health and safety of the entire community posed by our unprotected one-way-in, one-way-out access/egress named La Cueva Road/FR 375.

Dan Johnson
11 A/B Dalton Road
Resident since 1977

Monica Johnson
48 La Cueva Creek Road
Resident since 1978

Email from Doug Booth dated April 8, 2014:

GRANT APPLICATION #21-14

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY BY DOUG BOOTH IN OPPOSITION

#21-14 PROVIDES MARGINAL BENEFIT and DEVASTATING AFFECT

1) The maps of the area submitted to the panel show that the prevailing winds in La Cueva are from the Southwest. Therefore, due to the southerly location of the proposed fuel break, it will afford minimal protection to the homes of La Cueva – perhaps three homes - as most residences are far north of the area protected by the fuel break.

2) Enhanced egress from La Cueva will be of minimal benefit, as families must travel one to two miles down La Cueva Road before they reach Block E. So, #21-14 offers us a bad trade-off – trees and wild lands for a false sense of security.

3) 68,400 trees will be killed and wildlife habitat devastated to accomplish this plan. The prescription calls for reducing the existed 550 trees per acre down to 35. That's taking 515 trees per acre over 133 acres = 68,495 trees. Since Block E was thinned about 50 years ago, it has not excessively overgrown, as Mr Todd Haines has observed (below).

Private Land Thinning Assessment by Todd Haines

In October of 2013, Todd Haines of New Mexico State Forestry conducted an assessment of the private land directly adjacent to Block E. I previously furnished his full report to the Panel last Sunday 4/6/14. The property is very similar in character to Block E, and this is what Mr. Haines found regarding tree presence and wildfire potential in the area.

“The most common species occurring on the property was the Ponderosa Pine. Douglas fir also occurred on all but one of the plots, indicating that it is prevalent in this landscape.” Mr. Haines concluded that this forest was only “moderately overstocked.”

And most significant, with respect to fire danger.

"The fuel hazard on the property is low to moderate at the present time. Fuel continuity on the property is patchy and it should be difficult to sustain a fire."

Fuel Break – Hayman Study

#21-14 proposes a “fuel break” in La Cueva. This FS study addressed this type of fuel modification.

Colorado's 2002 Hayman Fire Study assessed the effectiveness of fuel modifications, including fuel breaks, following the most devastating fire in Colorado's history. The study determined that “all fuel modifications were overwhelmed by fire intensities, and that high winds and low moisture were far more determinative of fire severity than thinning or fuel break measures.” Unfortunately, this is the type of fire we may anticipate at the height of “fire season” in New Mexico, given the forest and environmental conditions prevalent.

Conclusion

Grant Application # 21-14 does not appear to be based either on good science or common sense. On behalf of the 34 residents of La Cueva, who signed the letter in opposition to this grant, we ask that you not fund application 21-14. We thank the panel for its time and consideration.

Doug Booth